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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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CONTENTS.

ECCLESIASTICAL:—	POLITICAL ARTICLES:—
Congregational Union- ism—No. 5. Recom- mendatory Rule..... 221	Summary..... 228
The Maynooth Grant— Meeting at Islington— Miscellaneous 221	The Maynooth Debate... 228
CORRESPONDENCE:—	The Oregon Territory— The Impolicy of War... 229
The True Way to oppose the Maynooth Grant... 224	The Pet Corporation .. 229
COMPLETE SUFFRAGE 224	IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT:—
FOREIGN NEWS:—	Employment of Women and Children—Illegal Imprisonment—New Poor Law for Scotland —Maynooth Grant— The Oregon Territory —Mr Duncombe's Let- ters—The Auction Duties— Miscellaneous— House of Lords 230
India and China—Switz- erland—Miscellany .. 225	RELIGIOUS 234
METROPOLITAN 225	MARRIAGES AND DEATHS 234
PROVINCIAL 225	TRADE AND COMMERCE.. 234
IRELAND 226	ADVERTISEMENTS..... 235
THE REVENUE TABLE 226	
EVERYBODY'S COLUMN..... 226	
POSTSCRIPT..... 227	

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

CONGREGATIONAL UNIONISM. No. V.

RECOMMENDATORY RULE.

"To put legislative authority out of the question, the assemblies of this Union are regarded but as voluntary meetings. Their declarations and resolutions are but the acts of those present and concurring therein. All their force lies in their truth and goodness, and in the consent, silent or declared, of others. They cannot bind the dissentient or the absent further than such see cause to yield or to concur." We have selected this passage from the "Minutes of the adjourned autumnal meeting of the Congregational Union, held at Norwich, 1844," because it expresses with more felicity than any other we have met with, that special feature of the organisation to which its advocates most confidently point, in refutation of the fears awakened by its growing power. We have a few words to say upon the general subject of recommendatory rule, and we respectfully solicit for them a candid consideration.

It is not to every plan which looks faultless on paper that the well-being of the churches may be safely confided. It ought never to be forgotten that, whilst we remain on earth, we have to deal with fallen human nature, and that the wisest and most perfect abstract regulations will take effect only so far, and in such shape, as the ordinary tendencies of man will permit. It may be the earnest wish, and the studied intention, of the leading members of the Union to give no other force to its "declarations and resolutions than that which lies in their truth and goodness, and in the consent, silent or declared, of others." We shall not call into question their motives, but we shall surely be justified in examining practical results. Here is a certain moral power designed to tell upon the will of the community of independents. It amounts not to the force of law—but it assumes the shape of a recommendation. It is not coercive, but persuasive. It decides nothing, but it helps to a uniformity of decision. Now, what we wish to know is, whether it is possible, in the nature of things, to prevent other elements than truth, goodness, and consent, from entering largely into the composition of that moral power—whether the authority of names—whether the leverage of private understandings—whether influences which may be brought to bear upon prudential worldly motives—can be excluded. These may have real force, irresistible force, even upon the dissentient—and disobedience may have its penalties, although not written in a statute book, nor pronounced from the judgment seat.

We shall not now undertake to decide between the comparative merits of legislative authority, and of recommendatory rule, in the general management of our churches. We incline to the opinion, on the whole, that the former is to be preferred, as a less evil than the latter. To us, we confess, the feature of the Union under present notice is far from being an argument in its favour. We have insuperable objections to it—a few of which we shall proceed to state.

1. First, then, we regard it as an evil, because, as a fact, it never can correspond with the theory. They who know anything of our churches, must be aware that the power of the Union will be constituted of actual materials, differing very widely from those which appear upon the face of

"reports" and resolutions. The proceedings of the Union may be based upon "truth and goodness"—but it will not be solely, nor chiefly, on account of their truth and goodness that they will be adopted by independent churches. The Congregational Hymn-book, for example, may be the very best supplementary hymn-book extant—upon this we pronounce no opinion—but will any man, having a cursory knowledge of facts, make bold to affirm, that it owes its common use in the churches to its intrinsic excellence? It would be impossible, of course, to trace out all the means which have been employed in this instance—and we select this instance merely for the convenience of illustration—to give effect to the recommendation of the Union—means for the use of which the committee may not be in the least responsible; but we should assuredly wonder at the rashness of any advocate who should affirm that they have been such *only* as fall within the description given in the above quotation. We make no charge against the Union—indeed, our case is stronger in the absence of any charge; but we do mean to affirm that the promise held out by recommendatory rule, that its whole force lies in its truth, goodness, and consent, is and must be a delusion and a snare—a pleasant but Utopian fiction—a dream of ecclesiastical optimism which one touch of reality will dissipate at once.

2. We object to this species of rule, because, from its very nature, it opens the door to an immense amount of back-stair influence. Legislative authority reaches its ends by visible and direct methods—recommendatory rule is precluded from doing this. But every one will admit that resolutions on paper, especially on questions of high importance, do not end their history there. The desires, the hopes, the fears, the conscientious and the more questionable motives, which strove together to exalt them into resolutions of the body, will naturally aim to transfer them from the "minute book" to general practice, and to make what was a dead formula a living power. And it is just here, when the assembly, whose meetings are to be regarded as merely voluntary, has broken up, that all the evils incident upon any power more evasive than the legislative develops itself. The essays of a popular pen—the tone of denominational organs—the local authority which weakness cannot oppose—friendly assistance where there is ready acquiescence—cold dismissals where there is sturdy opposition—silently, but very effectually operate upon the decision of churches, or rather of ministers, up and down the country. Without the smallest obtrusion of *corrupt* motives, men may submit to what their unbiased judgment would reject. Unconsciously, and even allowedly, they may be looking somewhat more anxiously for the services of this or the other leading "brother" at a future anniversary, for a not distant opening to introduce a chapel case, or for a testimonial to some vacant church, than to the "truth and goodness" of the thing recommended. It is in this kind of hidden wheel-work that the main force of the Union lies; and here, whilst man continues to be man, it *must* lie. Legislative authority, we think, is far preferable to this—far less likely to undermine Christian manliness, or to destroy ecclesiastical independence.

3. And this last remark brings us across the track of another grave objection to recommendatory rule. By creating numerous under-currents of influence, it insures a vast deal of movement which cannot be accounted for by what appears upon the surface. Churches and ministers who are aiming at some end especially connected with their own immediate welfare, will be very apt to commit themselves to the cause of "truth and goodness" for the sake of the advantages which are concealed beneath it. Concurrence with the Union will attract the notice, and secure the good wishes, of the leading friend of the Union in the county or the neighbourhood—and out of that notice and good-will considerable benefits may be obtained. Thus, in their search through the declarations and resolutions of the Union after "truth and goodness," subordinate members will be sorely tempted to use as an eye-glass the recorded opinions of that influential friend who is best able to brighten or to bedim their future prospects. Should the inlets and the outlets of the ministry amongst independents be well guarded—the first, by a small committee of "triers," and the last, by a fund for superannuated pastors—we shall have

an external arrangement for keeping weak churches humble, and obscure ministers obedient to their superiors, as perfect as the wit of man can invent. If it does not succeed in producing a very general breaking down of frankness, truthfulness, honesty, and self-reliance, it will not be from any flaw in the machinery. These results begin to show themselves already—in twenty years more, unless some great change should intervene, we shall have reached the very pink of the truck system in ecclesiastical affairs—"You are at full liberty either to take our wares, or to decline them. We presume not to dictate; but, before you commit yourself to a hasty decision, perhaps you had better consult one of the managers of the concern."

4. Lastly, we demur to this novel order of government, because it is controlled by no direct and tangible responsibility. Such power as it is able to collect and to employ must necessarily reside in the hands of a few; and for the exercise of it, in the manner above indicated, it will be impossible to call those few to account. The churches will gradually come under the domination of a self-constituted oligarchy—and, with all the outward forms of freedom, they will be virtually enslaved.

THE GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.

MEETING AT ISLINGTON CHAPEL.

A meeting of the protestant dissenters of Islington took place at Islington chapel, on Monday evening last; Roger Cunliffe, Esq., in the chair. The place was crowded with earnest and attentive hearers. Altogether, the tone of the meeting was good, and augurs well for the future. But little hesitation was manifested on the part of any of the speakers in the avowal of the great, broad principle of no state support to religion: with most of them, a manly, open, unequivocal hostility to state establishments of religion, in any form, was declared; and the approbation with which the audience received the enunciation of anti-state-church principles formed a prominent feature of the meeting. As a proof of the importance which is attached to this question in the vicinity, it is stated, that the meeting held in the same place during the progress of the Factories bill agitation, was scarcely half so numerous.

The CHAIRMAN regretted that the conduct of the government should have again rendered it necessary for the people to teach them their duty. A crisis, however, had arrived in state affairs which called for prompt and determined conduct; and therefore it was, that the resolutions then to be brought before them would be strong. This conduct, on the part of the conservative ministry, could and would be borne no longer. He trusted that one and all would stand firm to the last in opposing it; and if that were the case, such was the vacillating conduct of the present House of Commons, that they might hope to do so successfully. If they should fail—which he did not at all anticipate—then let protestant dissenters see to it at the next election.

Mr BLACKBURN (of Claremont chapel), moved the first resolution, and he said that, in answer to an inquiry, he had that day told the vicar of Islington that their meeting that evening was called for the purpose of keeping up the steam, which they (the church party) had already engendered, and that he hoped it would be so powerful as to affect the nerves and ultimately the destiny of the prime minister [cheers]. He was glad to know that there were some men in the House of Commons who would impede the progress of this measure at every step. One of the members on whom the deputation had waited, recently declared that he would die on the floor of the House rather than that this bill should pass. Let the dissenters but do their duty, and Sir R. Peel would be compelled to do his. Having exposed the fallacy about the "compact," he entered into a detailed and interesting history of the origin of this grant, and proceeded to read that part of the resolution which repudiates state establishments of religion, eliciting loud and long-continued cheering. He would not object to say that he was opposed to state support of religion in any form. If Sir Robert Peel, in the waywardness of his mind, were to propose to establish independency, his language would be, "I pray thee have me excused." The rector of Islington himself must regret the bad working of the establishment principle in his church with respect to the admission of unconverted men into its body. Some plausible arguments might be raised in favour of bishops, and something might be said for a liturgy and a form of prayer; but here was a sad blight—a giant evil—the result of the principle involved in an establishment. He was glad that this meeting had been summoned as that of "The protestant dissenters of Islington"—the ultra protestant dissenters of England—he only feared that

their friends, in their zeal for liberty, might neglect the claims of religion. One of the fallacies which had been put forth with a view to secure support for this grant, was, that if the priests were educated the people would be so too. He thought there was no truth in the statement. It would seem, on the contrary, that the Roman catholic church had been used to degrade, not to elevate, the people. He had lately been to Belgium, and throughout that country—Bruges, Ghent, &c.—either old or new bookshops were scarcely to be found: he had sought for them in vain. In Ireland, too, it was so, if he excepted a few where old books of devotion were kept; so, too, in the Roman states, in Spain, Portugal, &c. He sat down by expressing his cordial concurrence in the sentiments contained in the resolution.

Dr BENNETT rose to second the resolution. If the no popery cry had been the object of the meeting, it would not have had his presence. But it was said our forefathers did not hesitate to raise the cry throughout the land; which was true; but, then, he hoped they were wiser than their forefathers. They were alarmed when stage coaches traveled at the rate of five miles an hour: what would they not think of the danger of railways? When in conversation once with a French baron, on a similar subject, the former supported the establishment principle, on the ground that while the state pays, it protects religion. But this was not borne out by fact. Look at the quakers—a people, than whom none were more persecuted and oppressed, on account of their religion in former times—they had no state pay; yet they enjoyed much more state protection than any other sect! The crooked policy of statesmen seemed only to illustrate the saying of scripture—"the crafty are taken in their own snare." Look, too, at the dudgeon the farmers were now in with the ministry who were to have proved the "farmers' friends;" and witness the wrath of the conservative party towards the man whom they had laboured so hard and so successfully to restore to power. Ould Ireland had always been deemed the grand impediment to the existence of a tory ministry; but Sir Robert Peel thought he had discovered the panacea which was to render it a difficulty no longer. He thought it not unlikely that the means they proposed to adopt were just those which God intended should destroy them. There could be no doubt that this grant, together with the *regium donum*, was intended to keep them quiet. The Roman catholic college was to be permanently endowed, in order that the clergy might the more decently hereafter be taken into state pay. Indeed, the time would soon come when all religious bodies who applied for state support must have it. Independents, for aught he knew, might so apply, and say with O'Connell, "We will take all we can get, as an instalment of what has been long due to us." But whether this were so or not, their duty as dissenters was to oppose on their own peculiar grounds. He wished statesmen would leave the ark of God alone, and leave religion where Jesus Christ left it. Had that been the case, Great Britain would not at this moment be suffering from one of the greatest curses that ever befell their race—an unregenerate ministry. He most cordially seconded the motion.

Mr C. GILBERT, of Barnsbury chapel, introduced the next resolution by congratulating himself on his being able to speak freely at that meeting, which was one of protestant dissenters. After referring to the wrongs of Ireland—the chief of which, he said, was the being compelled to support the church of another faith—and declaring that the existence of the established church in Wales was one of the main causes of the strange doings of that mysterious personage, Rebecca, he concluded by showing that the avowed object of Sir Robert Peel in proposing this measure was the doing away with voluntarism in Ireland—an attempt, in fact, to put down the desire for freedom, which O'Connell had been for years exerting his great talents to obtain for his countrymen throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Mr J. H. GODWIN, of Highbury college, seconded the resolution. Though he admitted the measure then under consideration to be a very bad one, yet he looked upon its introduction as an indication of improvement—an advance towards liberal principles both in people and government. On the part of the ministry, it was a confession that their past conduct towards Ireland had been wrong; and it was a full acknowledgment that that country ought no longer to be governed for the sake of the few, but for the equal advantage of all. But why should they manifest their contrition in that particular way? Why did they not perform the act of justice in the way justice dictated? But unfortunately it was the rule that one bad act usually led to that of another: if this course were permitted to continue, there would be no end to injustice in this world. He concluded by observing that the time was come when they should have to choose whether they would have Roman catholicism in all its phases, in England and in Ireland, or whether they would unite to oppose a measure which is unjust, offensive to all, and "neither honourable nor beneficial to those to whom it is offered."

Dr PRICE rose to propose the third resolution. He was glad that that meeting was held, especially as bearing on their consistency as protestant dissenters. Having read the resolution, he said it was quite obvious that, whatever resolution might have been proposed at the late meeting of churchmen and dissenters in Islington, no such resolution as that just read could have emanated from it. On some aspects of the present times he could not look with gloomy forebodings, though in others there was much of evil; but his faith was placed on the superintending providence of God, who would overrule all for good. He thought there were working in the public mind convictions which could not have been produced

through any other means. There was evidently, too, the exhibition of conscious weakness in the establishment, and of the growing strength of public opinion. He could not understand how the pious members of the establishment could manifest so much zeal about this paltry grant while the great principle was left unassailed. On the other hand, he was not surprised at the political patrons of the establishment. They cared nothing about religion. The disgusting hypocrisy and cant made him sick at heart when he heard such men desecrating religion by professing anxiety about its support. A member of the lower House said, the other day, "Oh, the ministers' great majorities on church questions arise from its being a property question. Members of parliament look to the church as the nursery for their younger sons." But they were to have another state religion. They had already two—the protestant episcopalian, and the protestant presbyterian: the one sustained by the tithe-system, the other by state-grants. Ministers have now found out that the dissatisfaction which had manifested itself must be bought off. When dissenterism was feeble, government looked upon it with sovereign contempt; but they now perceive a power arising which threatens to endanger their craft—that it was which had led to this grant. In deference to the power of public opinion, ten bishops were lopped off, some time ago, from the Irish priesthood. O'Connell, consistent enough in some things, was not so here. He had long and eloquently been pleading for voluntarism; but he was now silent as the grave. He must be poorly read in history who supposes that a love for the truth governs and controls the House of Commons in this measure: the love of truth is unknown there. Instead of the principle of supporting truth guiding them, the tendency seems to take into state pay all religious systems. One after another it will be offered to them; but woe to those who shall accept it! It had already been matter of consideration whether it should not be offered to a very numerous body of religionists in this country—he did not mean the presbyterians—a highly influential body, and one, too, that had been the means of effecting much good. Now, he believed that it was in the power of the dissenters to prevent all this evil; he firmly believed that they could destroy the system. If their opposition were presented on broad, distinct, and intelligible grounds, he had no fear but that this majority—a majority the most ignominious that ever existed—would be defeated. Let them recollect that, if this measure passed, it would not be by the usual majority of the minister, but by one swelled by men of all parties—not by the majority that pledged itself to support Sir Robert at the hustings, but by the liberal section of the House, if he forced it through at all. Come what may, he had made up his mind that no man in Finsbury who voted for this measure should ever have his vote. To have permitted one establishment to have existed so long was bad enough; but to permit another to be thrust upon them, would be an unpardonable sin. One of their members (Mr Duncombe) remained faithful; the other might be so, too, if proper means were taken in time. Should the course hitherto pursued be continued? No! Let them stand out distinct from all, and avow their hostility to all state support for religion in any and in every form. He (Dr Price) differed from one whom he esteemed. He thought that, if there must be a religion established in Ireland, that ought to be the Roman catholic. If injustice must be perpetrated, let it be in favour of the largest number. But his language was—Let religion go free from state patronage. Had she had fair play in Ireland in past days, she would not then have been the mere bantling she was. The curse of Ireland was the obtrusion upon her of the protestant church; and this led to the conviction of her sons that the protestantism of England was associated with her wrongs. He concluded a most eloquent speech, repeatedly interrupted by applause, by moving the resolution.

Mr HOLLIS (the minister of the place) followed Dr Price, in seconding the resolution, and urged the people to a strenuous effort to prevent the passing of the bill.

Mr H. ALLON (co-pastor of Union chapel) moved the fourth resolution. He declared all established religions to be wrong—unscriptural—unjust; therefore, he opposed this grant.

Mr A. J. MORRIS (of Holloway chapel) designated that meeting as quite a model meeting. The subject was taken up and opposed on principle. If ever there was a time for coming out on great and broad principle, that was the time. They were not met to battle about money—they were assembled to show a far better ground for objection—the only equitable one. They objected against any state support being given to religion. He thought God had permitted this bill to be introduced in order to teach dissenters great principles. The country would learn more by this measure than they could otherwise have gained in twenty years. He preferred to have these things in their worst form. What was this Maynooth grant intended to effect? Was it the result of Sir Robert's care for religion? He cares nothing about religion. He was simply adopting the advice of good old Izaak Walton—he was putting O'Connell "on the hook as if he loved it." If any one man in the House ought to be ashamed of his conduct on this question, that man was Lord John Russell. If ever he became a chartist, he should have to thank the whigs for it. His opposition to the church of Rome was not as the church of Rome, but as the combining things secular and things sacred. All its anathemas can do no hurt, except when the civil sword is wielded in its aid, and that can only be when it becomes a state church. Who cares for its maledictions or its persecutions now? They were alike harmless. He conjured the meeting to strike

at the root of the evil—the alliance of church and state [loud cheers].

Mr J. J. BROWN (of Islington Green chapel) moved the last resolution, which was seconded by Mr YOCKNEY of Lower Road chapel.

Thanks having been voted to the chairman, the meeting dissolved.

MEMBERS AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS.—The electors of the metropolitan boroughs are taking a decisive step, which it is hoped their provincial brethren will be forward to emulate. Both in the city of London and the borough of Westminster declarations are in course of signature, expressive of the feelings of the undersigned on the subject, and holding out significant hints to their representatives. The city memorialists to their members conclude:—

They feeling, also, that they should be wanting in candour if they did not add that they shall find it extremely difficult, in any future election, to give their support to any candidate who has taken part in passing this most objectionable bill.

The electors of the Tower Hamlets opposed to the Maynooth grant have prepared the following letter, to be sent to their representatives, Sir William Clay and Colonel Fox:—

SIR—We, the undersigned electors of the borough of the Tower Hamlets, deem it to be our duty to represent to you the serious apprehension with which we regard the proposal of her Majesty's government to increase the present grant to Maynooth college, and to remove it from the annual supervision of parliament.

We wish it to be clearly understood that our objection to this measure arises from no wish to withhold from the Roman catholics of Ireland any civil rights to which they are justly entitled, but from a conscientious conviction that the application of the public money to any class of religionists is hurtful to religion, and infringes upon the rights of conscience. Regarding the proposal as preparatory to the endowment of the Roman catholic clergy in Ireland, we are desirous of guarding against those religious and social evils of which the foundation of a new church establishment in that country would inevitably produce.

We are also impelled to this opposition by the design which the proposed measure is intended to subserve. Unasked as it has been by the Irish people, and inadequate, as it must be, to remove the grievances under which they suffer, we regard it as intended to secure the political subservency of the priesthood, by detaching them from their flocks, upon whom they are at present dependent, and to uphold the existence of the Irish church establishment, by inflicting a still greater wrong upon every class of dissenters throughout the kingdom.

This is a matter upon which we feel strongly, and intend to act resolutely; we therefore respectfully, but earnestly, beg of you, as our representative in parliament, to oppose, by your voice and vote, the proposal of her Majesty's government. We remain, &c.

BARNET, HERTS.—Two very interesting meetings were held yesterday se'nnight, in the hall of this town, to oppose the increase of the grant to Maynooth. The chair was taken by Captain Trotter, of Dyrham park; who, together with Messrs H. N. Dudding, vicar of St Peter's, St Alban's; A. Stewart, dissenting minister; A. M. Myers and Dr Dimenna, a converted Italian priest; also R. C. L. Bevan, Esq., of Trent park; and James Lord, Esq., secretary of the Central Anti-Maynooth committee, addressed the numerous and respectable audiences, in the afternoon and evening of that day. Petitions, numerous signed, have been presented from the town and vicinity.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The dissenters of Southampton have agreed to a petition against the measure, which is based upon sound and right principles.—*Hants Independent*.

NOTTINGHAM.—The petition from Nottingham, which has been for some time lying for signature at various churches and chapels, has been entrusted to Mr Gisborne, M.P., for presentation. It received the signatures of 15,254 inhabitants.—*Notts Review*.

BOSTON.—The proposed grant to Maynooth college, and the other sums intended by the Peel government as a quietus to agitation in Ireland by bribing the catholics, is exciting strong sensations in Boston. Already a general petition, in which the church and the dissenters have cordially united, is in course of signature, besides congregational petitions from several bodies of dissenters; in addition to which, a requisition to the mayor has been numerous signed by the ministers and leading members of almost every sect in the borough, for a public meeting on this very important proposal of the government, not inaptly designated by Mr D'Israeli "a combined hypocrisy." It is expected that the public meeting will be held on Monday evening next.—*Stamford Mercury*.

WAKEFIELD.—The evangelical party in the church have been actively engaged for some days in getting up a petition to both houses of parliament against this state-endowment of Romanism. The dissenters also have just begun to move in this important matter. The Sabbath-school teachers, both male and female, are getting up a petition against the insidious plan of the Premier.

HALIFAX.—Petitions were sent, during last week, from the congregations worshipping at Zion, Square, and Harrison road chapels, Halifax, against the proposed government grant to the college of Maynooth.

HAWORTH.—There is great excitement here against Peel's audacious proposal. The church, the methodists, and other dissenters, are all petitioning against the grant, and persons of all shades are signing. Since the agitation for the Reform bill, there has not been such unanimity of feeling and sentiment on any question. There is great indignation against the Premier. If he pushed on this measure, his days are numbered, and those of his supporters.—*Bradford Observer*.

TORQUAY, APRIL 3.—Petitions to parliament, against the proposed grant to Maynooth college, are being got up here, and supported generally by all dissenting sects, but more especially by the Wesleyan

methodists, whose preachers very openly denounce it from the pulpit.

COLDSTREAM.—At a large and respectable public meeting, held on the 31st ult., and attended by persons of all religious denominations in the town and neighbourhood—Dr Thomson in the chair—the adoption of a petition, which he read, and commented on at some length, having been moved by Mr James Porteous, and seconded by Mr R. Carmichael, was carried by acclamation. The petition is now in the course of signature, and will, as appointed by the meeting, be speedily transmitted to John Bright, Esq., member for Durham, to be by him presented to the House of Commons.

GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.—On Tuesday evening, a public meeting was held at the Baptist chapel, Stoke Holy Cross, with reference to the proposed endowment of the Roman catholic college of Maynooth. Jeremiah Colman, Esq., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. W. Brock, Mr James Colman, Mr Thomas Geldart, and Mr Fletcher. The speeches were listened to with marked attention, and were responded to with much intelligence and heartiness. Before the hour of meeting the chapel was entirely filled, and the interest manifested throughout the evening showed how thoroughly the neighbourhood is aroused on the subject, and what a hold the voluntary principle has on their judgment and their hearts. A petition was agreed to, and numerously signed.—*Norfolk News.*

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF IRELAND.—A meeting of the committee of this body was held in Dublin on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of recording their protest, not merely against the parliamentary grant to Maynooth, but against a state provision for the support of any form of religion, as being at variance with the gospel, as set forth under divine authority in the sacred writings. Here are two of their resolutions:—

"That we embrace this opportunity for inviting grave consideration to the propriety of state provision for the support of religion, and for avowing our conviction that civil governments have neither ability nor authority from God to decide what religious system or systems shall be received by the nation; that to afford government countenance and aid to religious bodies, because they happen to be numerous and influential, is giving help where it is least needed, and taxing the weak to support the strong; that the gospel of Christ, according to the New Testament, neither asks nor needs the assistance in question; that the endowment of religion by the state has often, if not always, tended to secularise and otherwise injure the church of God; and that, if the course of policy adopted by her Majesty's government in these important matters be persevered in, results deeply injurious to piety and freedom will ensue."

"That while thus recording our opposition to all state endowments of religion, we consequently maintain, that the unrestricted possession of civil rights should be accorded to all classes of persons, irrespective of their religious opinions, and hold ourselves bound to object to, and protest against, the state endowment of our own denomination, were that proposed, equally as we do against the endowment of the Roman catholic college at Maynooth."

This is, at all events, impartial dealing with both great interests.—*Times.*

EDINBURGH.—A petition was sent yesterday (April 1) to parliament, from the baptist church and congregation, Duncan street, Newington, against the Maynooth bill. Similar petitions were sent from different churches in the city, for the same purpose. A meeting of all denominations is to be held, next Tuesday, in the large Music hall, to petition against the Maynooth bill. "The steam is up" here!

SOLVA.—On Thursday, the 27th of March, a public meeting was held in the congregational chapel, Solva, to petition parliament against the intended increase of the grant to Maynooth college. The chair was taken by Levi Griffiths, Esq. The speakers were Messrs Mortimer and Griffiths, St David's, and Mr Davies, master of the congregational school. There was a solemn protest made against the grant, and the hearers were very attentive, and determined to watch with jealousy and indignation such an attempt made to strengthen the principles of popery, and that the public money should be appropriated towards so pernicious an object. As it is believed that this is the first public meeting that has been held in Wales on the subject, it is to be hoped that the Welsh churches of every denomination will follow the example, in order to frustrate Sir Robert Peel's plan to countenance, support, and connect popery with the state.

The pressure upon our space will not allow of doing more than mentioning the efforts that are being made in other parts of the country in opposition to the grant. The Weslevians have, at length, put their formidable organisation into motion, although the resolutions passed by the committee of privileges consist simply of denunciations of popery. On Monday evening a great meeting was held at the Eastern institution, Commercial road, over which Sir Culling E. Smith presided. The principal speakers were the chairman, Dr Reed, Mr Smith, and Mr C. Hindley, M.P. Petitions are preparing in all quarters; many of them, such an one we have seen from the inhabitants of Kettering, praying for a withdrawal of all grants to ecclesiastical bodies. In Leicester a great meeting was to be held last night. Public meetings were held last week at Bath, Bristol, Truro, Norwich, Brentford, Grantham, Auctermuchty, Bradford, and other towns. In some places a succession of meetings are being held. It is expected that the petition from Birmingham will contain between 20,000 and 30,000 signatures. The Congregational church, Argyle square, Edinburgh, have petitioned against the grant; but the chairman, and fourteen others, declined to vote because other sections have endowments. Their argument is—because government has already acted unjustly, it

ought to be allowed to act unjustly still! The evangelical church party and Free church are still active in the field; but we trust dissenters will make their voice heard above all who object to the grant only on theological grounds.

The following petition has been adopted by Dr Leifchild's congregation, Craven chapel:—

"To the Honourable the Commons, &c. &c."

"Sheweth—That your petitioners entirely sympathise with their fellow-subjects of every persuasion who claim equal civil privileges with others, irrespective of religious opinions; and for no class do they entertain a livelier interest than for the deeply and long-aggrieved Roman catholics of Ireland. But your petitioners, objecting to all state-church establishments, view with special alarm the proposal now before your honourable House, not only to extend the parliamentary grant to the Roman catholic college at Maynooth, but to extend it after such a manner as would be equivalent to the state endowment of Romanism in the sister isle. Your petitioners deprecate such a procedure, not only as unnecessary to civil equality and detrimental to sincere religion, in common with all grants of public money in support of religious dogmas or parties, whether limited to one sect or given to all sects; but, from the high assumptions of the Roman catholic church in particular, and its ordinary practice now and at all times, where allied with the civil power, they regard the proposal in question as especially threatening to the cause of civil and religious liberty in that island and this, and, by consequence, throughout the world. For these reasons your petitioners intreat that the proposed measure may not obtain the sanction of your honourable House."

"And your petitioners will ever pray."

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND THE MAYNOOTH GRANT.—A correspondent sends the following petition, with a preliminary suggestion, which we hope will be generally carried out:—"I am not aware that Sunday schools have, as yet, moved in the great work of inundating the government with petitions against the Maynooth grant. I, therefore, forward the petition which the teachers in our school have adopted, in the hope that it may stimulate the activity, and direct the efforts, of others:—"

"To the Honourable the Commons [or Rt Hon. the Lords Spiritual and Temporal] of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled."

"The humble petition of the teachers of the Sunday school connected with Providence chapel, Shoreditch, sheweth—That your petitioners are engaged in the gratuitous weekly communication of religious truth to above 300 children."

"That they have heard that a bill has been introduced to parliament to increase, and render permanent, the grant to the college at Maynooth."

"That it is their conviction that the endowment, by the state, of any description of religious teachers is unjust in principle, and detrimental to the interests of religion."

"They, therefore, pray that such bill may not pass into law."

"And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

The following is the list of members of the House of Commons, who voted for and against Sir R. Peel's motion, on Thursday night, for leave to bring in a bill "to amend the acts relating to the college of Maynooth." We trust that the list will be carefully examined by every elector opposed to the measure, with a view to the next general election:—

Ayes, 216; noes, 114: majority, 102.

AYES.

Acland, Sir T. D.	Etwell, R.	Pakington, J. S.
Acland, T. D.	Ferguson, Colonel	Palmerston, Lord
Adare, Lord	Fitzmaurice, W.	Parker, J.
Adderley, C. B.	Flower, Sir J.	Patten, J. W.
Ainsworth, P.	Forster, M.	Pechell, Capt.
Aldam, W.	Freemantle, Sir T.	Peel, Sir R.
Alford, Lord	French, F.	Peel, J.
Arundel and Surrey,	Gaskell, J. M.	Phillips, G. E.
Earl	Gibson, T. M.	Pigot, D.
Baillie, Colonel	Gordon, Captain	Plumridge, J.
Baird, W.	Gore, M.	Præd, W. T.
Baring, F. T.	Gore, Hon. R.	Pringle, A.
Baring, T.	Goulburn, H.	Pulsford, R.
Baring, W. B.	Graham, Sir J.	Pusey, P.
Barnard, E. G.	Granger, T.	Rawdon, Colonel
Barrington, Lord	Grey, Sir G.	Repton, G. W.
Bellew, R. M.	Guest, Sir J.	Rice, E. R.
Bentinck, Lord G.	Hamilton, W. J.	Roebeck, J. A.
Blandford, Lord	Hamilton, Lord C.	Round, J.
Boldero, H. G.	Harcourt, G. G.	Rous, Captain
Borthwick, P.	Hatton, Capt. V.	Russell, Lord J.
Botfield, B.	Hawes, B.	Russell, Lord E.
Bowles, J.	Heneage, G. H.	Russell, C.
Bowles, Admiral	Herbert, S.	Russell, J. D.
Bowring, Dr	Hervey, Lord A.	Rutherford, A.
Bramston, T. W.	Hill, Lord M.	Sandon, Lord
Brotherton, J.	Hogg, J. W.	Scott, R.
Brown, W.	Holland, R.	Seymour, Sir H.
Brownrigg, J.	Hope, Hon. C.	Sheil, R. L.
Bruce, Lord E.	Hope, G. W.	Shelburne, Earl
Buller, C.	Houldsworth, T.	Smith, J. A.
Buller, E.	Howard, Hon. C.	Smith, T. B.
Busfield, W.	Howard, Hon. E.	Smyths, Hon. G.
Butler, P. S.	Howick, Lord	Somerset, Lord G.
Byng, G. S.	Hutt, W.	Somerton, Lord
Campbell, Sir H.	Ingestre, Lord	Somerville, Sir W. M.
Cardwell, E.	James, Sir W.	Sotherton, T. H.
Carew, Hon. R.	Jermyn, Earl	Stanton, Sir G.
Carew, W. H.	Jocelyne, Lord	Stewart, J.
Carnegie, Captain	Johnston, Sir J.	Stuart, Lord J.
Cavendish, C.	Labouchere, H.	Stuart, W. V.
Cavendish, G.	Lambton, H.	Strickland, Sir G.
Chapman, B.	Lascelles, Hon. W.	Strutt, E.
Childers, J. W.	Lennox, Lord A.	Sutton, Hon. H. M.
Clay, Sir W.	Lincoln, Earl	Tancourt, H. W.
Clayton, R. R.	Listowel, Earl	Tenent, J. E.
Clerk, Sir G.	Loch, J.	Thornely, T.
Clifton, J. T.	Lowther, Sir J.	Towneley, J.
Cobden, R.	Lyall, G.	Traill, G.
Cockburn, Sir G.	Mackinnon, W.	Trench, Sir F.
Coburne, W.	Mackinnon, W.	Trevor, Hon. G.
Colebrooke, Sir T. E.	Macnamara, W.	Tufnell, H.
Collett, J.	McGeachy, F. A.	Tuite, H. M.
Collins, W.	McNeill, D.	Vane, Lord H.
Coote, Sir C. H.	Mangles, R. D.	Villiers, Hon. C.
Corry, H.	Manners, Lord J.	Villiers, Lord
Cowper, Hon. W.	March, Earl of	Wall, C. B.
Craig, W. G.	Martin, J.	Warburton, H.
Cripps, W.	Martin, C. W.	Ward, H. G.
Dalmeny, Lord	Milnes, R. M.	Wawn, J. T.
Damer, Colonel	Mitcalfe, H.	Welllesley, Lord C.
Dawson, Hon. T.	Mitchell, T. A.	Williams, W.
D'Eyncourt, C. T.	Morison, General	Wilshire, W.
Dickinson, F. H.	Murray, A.	Wood, Col.
Divett, E.		Worsley, Lord

Dodd, G.
Duncan, Lord
Duncombe, A.
Dundas, Admiral
Eastnor, Lord
Ellice, E.
Emlyn, Lord
Escott, B.
Esmonde, Sir T.

Napier, Sir C.
Neville, R.
Nicholl, J.
Norreys, Lord
O'Connor Don
Ord, W.
Oswald, A.
Paget, Colonel

Worsley, J.
Wynn, C. W.
Wyse, T.
Yorke, Hon. E.
Yorke, H. R.
TELLERS.
Young, J.
Baring, H.

NOES.

Ackers, J.
Acton, Col.
Alix, J. P.
Antrobus, E.
Archdall, Capt.
Ashley, Lord
Bagge, W.
Bankes, G.
Baskerville, T.
Bateson, T.
Beckett, W.
Beresford, Maj.
Blackstone, W.
Bouverie, Hon. E.
Bradshaw, J.
Brisco, M.
Broadley, H.
Bruce, C. L. C.
Buck, L. W.
Buller, Sir J. Y.
Burroughes, H.
Chetwode, Sir J.
Christopher, R.
Codrington, Sir W.
Cole, Hon. H. A.
Colquhoun, J. C.
Colville, C. R.
Compton, H. C.
Copeland, Ald.
Darby, O.
Deedes, W.
Derison, E. B.
Dick, Q.
D'Israeli, B.
Douglas, Sir H.
Douglas, J. D. S.
Duncan, G.
Duncombe, T.
Duncombe, O.

Du Pré, C. G.
Eaton, R. J.
Egerton, Sir P.
Ellice, E.
Entwistle, W.
Farnham, E. B.
Fielden, W.
Filmer, Sir E.
Fliothott, J.
Forman, T. S.
Fox, S. L.
Fuller, A. E.
Gore, W. O.
Gore, W. R. O.
Goring, C.
Greenall, P.
Greenaway, C.
Gregory, W. H.
Grogan, E.
Hamilton, J. H.
Hamilton, G. A.
Hampton, R.
Hammer, Sir J.
Harris, Capt.
Hastie, A.
Henley, J. W.
Hepburn, Sir T.
Hillsborough, Earl of
Hindley, C.
Hodgson, F.
Jolliffe, Sir W.
Jones, Capt.
Kemble, H.
Knight, F. W.
Law, Hon. C.
Lefroy, A.
Lockhart, W.
Long, W.
Mackenzie, T.

Maclean, D.
M'Taggart, Sir J.
Mainwaring, T.
Marton, G.
Masterman, J.
Maunsell, T. P.
Maxwell, J. P.
Morris, D.
Mundy, E. M.
Neeld, J.
Newdegate, C. N.
Newry, Lord
O'Brien, A. S.
Packe, C. W.
Palmer, R.
Palmer, G.
Pollington, Lord
Rendlesham, Lord
Richards, R.
Round, C. G.
Ryder, Hon. G.
Sanderson, R.
Sibthorp, Col.
Smith, A.
Smythe, Sir H.
Spooner, R.
Stuart, H.
Taylor, E.
Tollemache, J.
Turner, E.
Turner, C.
Tyrell, Sir J. T.
Verner, Col.
Vyvian, Sir R. R.
Waddington, H.
Wyndham, C.
TELLERS.
Ingles, Sir R. H.
Plumtre, J.

Mr LEADER paired in favour of the increased grant to Maynooth, with Captain POLHILL. Mr TRELAWNEY was absent, in consequence of indisposition, from the division on the Maynooth grant, but he will, we are assured, vote for it on the first opportunity.—*Chronicle.*

Although the proposed increase of the Maynooth grant is supported, almost without exception, by what are called the "liberal" members of parliament, we are glad to find that the liberal press sympathises but little with their views of the subject. The following are extracts from a few of the journals:—

(*The Examiner.*)

[In reviewing Sydney Smith's fragment on the Irish church, the editor says—]

The argument of the *Fragment* is for a state provision to the Roman catholic clergy. It has often been advocated; oftener than the already existing Irish example of a state provision, and a comparison of the performance of duties by a paid and an unpaid clergy, might seem to warrant. There are obstinate people who will continue to think, and to imagine themselves warranted by the experience of history in thinking, that nothing is so sure to corrupt religious teaching as interference from temporal governors; and who will point to church-and-state connexion for the proof, that by making the one dependent on the other, you make each the ally of the other's abuses. It is admitted on all hands, that the religious duties of the Roman catholic clergy in Ireland are as faithfully performed as those of any clergy in the world: more faithfully than most. We should dread to disturb this if we had authority. The evil political power of the Irish priest is a direct emanation of the existing state establishment. Assail that, if you will; but do not think to correct its abuses by raising up another; nor imagine that you could peaceably or reasonably adjust such rival claims. What, for example, should be the apportionment to the religion of the seven millions, and what to the religion of the one million?

(*Suffolk Chronicle.*)

We are now to have two state churches supported by taxes levied on the people. Such is the state of religion that it cannot support itself. The government dares not trust men to look to the Scriptures for it, but must extend its patronage to its priests, whether protestant or catholic. Expediency is its motto, and worldly advantages are proclaimed to be superior to every aspiration for heavenly things. The propagation of error is as perfect a matter of indifference to our legislators as the upholding of truth; for they pretend not to judge between the two—both are regarded equally alike, and by so doing they reduce it to the principle that one is equally deserving their encouragements as the other. But we opine that a struggle is at hand, in which the question will be decided as to whether we shall henceforth have two state churches or none. The die is cast, and it now behoves every enlightened mind to determine whether that can be a true form of religion that requires the fostering aid of such a government as the present, so corrupt in its practices, and so utterly reckless in the carrying out of its policy.

(*Western Times.*)

We hope that sober, honest men of all parties, will ponder on these facts, and that, before they permit the grant to be made to Maynooth, they will see whether the question cannot be settled by reference to principles of justice, instead of a hollow and disgraceful expediency. It will be said that nothing better can be done than to take the Irish priests into pay, and maintain the catholic religion as a third establishment. The necessities of the times leave no alternative. But who made "the necessities of the times?" Peel and his party. They have, by their stern and steadfast maintenance of the sinecure church, and their contemptuous treatment of the Irish people, maddened them to the verge of rebellion. They find a growing party in England who wish to wash their hands of this outrageous principle—a party who protest against the iniquities of a sinecure protestant church upheld by bayonets in defiance of the people. And now, seeing no alternative, but either to do justice, or give a new lease to the injustice by an expedient bribe, Sir Robert Peel has commenced his measure for establishing the Roman catholic religion in Ireland.

(Gateshead Observer.)

The measure is opposed on two grounds. Churchmen, whose establishment is maintained by the spoils of the catholic church, are hostile to the exhibition of further favour to popery—their own popery excepted; and those who, with ourselves, are convinced of the injustice and consequent impolicy of state endowments of religious bodies, object, of course, to the present proposal of the government, but in no spirit of intolerance to our catholic fellow-countrymen. Sir Robert confines himself, this session, to an increase of the Maynooth grant; but there can be no doubt that the ultimate endowment of the catholic church in Ireland is in the background.

(Hants Independent.)

In opposing the principle recognised by the endowment of the Roman catholic church in Ireland, our objections rest upon what may be deemed the true test of sincerity in religion. It must be admitted, that whether rightly or wrongly, each of the various sects into which the United Kingdom is divided, deems that to itself belongs the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and that in all other sects a departure from the right path has occurred, and error—even mortal error—the result. When any particular form of faith is embraced by any number of the population, the believers in that form, if sincere, and truly estimating the peculiarity (as deserving of a separate existence, distinguishing it from other sects), will best prove that sincerity by giving the necessary support to their own creed at their own expense. If, instead of adopting this fair and rational course, they call upon those whose religious opinions are equally strong on an opposite side, and insist that they shall contribute to uphold what to them seems erroneous, we must certainly doubt the religious sincerity of the claimants, but cannot at all doubt that such a claim is in its nature an injustice, and would be in its effects an oppression.

(Oxford Chronicle.)

Feelings stronger than contempt are excited by the fraud, the folly, and the injustice which the scheme and its advocacy implies; while the baseness of those, who, to the last, denied political rights to the catholics, and yelled "no popery" till they were hoarse, yet now, with unexampled baseness and servility, give money, or support the giving of money, out of the taxes, for the educating catholic priests, displays conservatives in the lowest deep of political degradation to which they can sink. They would not consent to make their catholic fellow-countrymen equal before the law, but they will, by their minister and their members, give money to lay the foundation for the extension and the establishment of popery!

(Bradford Observer.)

There are indications of a popular storm of opposition to this measure, such as has not troubled the political sky since 1843. But the elements of this storm are most discordant; we are sorry to have to add, the most of them are uncharitable and malignant. With marvelous inconsistency, parties who have long been in receipt of public grants are raising an outcry against this proposed grant; trumpeting their own holiness, and passing judgment upon the "damnable heresies" of popery. This is not the sort of opposition which we could wish to see directed against the Premier. We are in opposition to him in this matter; but in sooth we rather feel ashamed of the wide-mouthed bigotry with which we find ourselves in company.

(Nottingham Review.)

We do not deplore that Sir Robert Peel has proposed the endowment of the Roman catholic college at Maynooth, because we think that it will be the means of awakening and of promoting inquiry into the right of the state to endow any ecclesiastical corporation with the money of persons whose principles are opposed to those taught and held by the party receiving the endowment.

This is pre-eminently the question of the day; the agitation upon the Maynooth grant will afford scope for its discussion; and let the issue in parliament be what it may, out of parliament the result must be beneficial: for falsehood is the only thing that loses by exposure. Truth, whose native element is light—whose nature is indestructible—by the fullest, freest discussion, can neither be weakened nor destroyed.

(Eclectic Review for April.)

It is for dissenters to vindicate the truth, by an open, fearless, and enlightened opposition to the measure contemplated. Our reliance, under God, is on them. Other auxiliaries will appear in the field, and they may possibly render some good service. But their position is so questionable, their reasonings are so inconclusive and contradictory, the view they take of the matter is so one-sided, and their whole course so palpably open to the suspicion of other motives than are compatible with a simple-hearted devotion to the truth, that we cannot regard with complacency, or take part in, many things which they say or do. Against much that was recently uttered at Exeter hall we feel bound to protest, and marvel that any nonconforming minister could consent to be heard in that meeting, without expressing in clear and decided terms his dissent from the views which were broached. We must take our own ground, deliberately and firmly take it, eschewing on the one hand the pseudo-liberalism of our politicians, and on the other hand the factious and more than doubtful zeal of the established church.

(Times of Monday.)

The new grant to Maynooth has been carried by the whigs. The conservatives have almost exactly divided upon the question, about one hundred and eight having stood by the Premier, and about one hundred and four having stood out against him. Of course, therefore, they go for nothing. They exhibit the infirmity of a house divided against itself; and are at the mercy of any external impulse. But the numbers of Thursday night are by no means a fair indication of the conservative sentiment on the present question. Even of the one hundred and eight who follow in the train of the triumphant Premier, the greater part followed with folded, nay, with rejected hands. They confessed themselves captives to ministerial necessity. The powers that be prevail. The fates hold every now and then their dread orgies, as poets and historians tell us, when all human scruples and calculations are overthrown, and men find themselves the passive instruments of uncontrollable power. For a time they have attempted to stem the tide of human affairs, and steer society by the ancient landmarks of opinion, and the consecrated chart of truth. At last a revolution, or a reform, or a coalition, overpowers in a

moment the barriers of opinion, and lets in the flood of necessity. Such is the present crisis. The conservatives oppose in vain, support in vain. They have brought in a minister to whom their friendship is worthless, their enmity contemptible. So they are drawn along with the stream. The whigs impersonate the inevitable progress of human affairs, and drag along Sir Robert Peel and half his supporters. They constitute almost exactly the excess of the majority over the minority of Thursday night. So it is they who have carried the grant to Maynooth. The conservatives are spectators of the event.

(From the Record.)

We have some reason to suppose that Sir Robert Peel is not only threatened with a formidable opposition to the grant to Maynooth from without, but that a weakness and uncertainty prevails in the cabinet councils in relation to it.

Not to look across the Irish channel, it has been suggested in high quarters, as we are informed, that the Wesleyan methodists, who object not to state endowments, and whose general respectability cannot be disputed, are at least equally entitled with Roman catholics to a national endowment for the college in which is carried on the education of that body of men which ministers to the spiritual wants of 2,000,000 of the population. The fiction of the national compact in relation to the Maynooth grant cannot be longer maintained; and that removed, is it to be endured that popery—unconstitutional as it respects the state, and heretical as it regards the church—should be cherished and advanced by the nation in a manner which is denied to such a body as the Wesleyan methodists?

We are informed that this view of the case has been under the consideration of the ministers; that part of them think that such a concession to the methodists would be healthful and beneficial to the entire community; while another section of the cabinet (coinciding in opinion with certain bishops who have been consulted) hold that if such a claim is to be advanced and entertained, the grant to Maynooth ought never to be made; that the former involves a principle destructive of a national establishment.

It might be very well for the heads of the Wesleyan body publicly to put forth their claim on government for a similar measure of countenance and support.

The above are only a few specimens of the spirit of the provincial press on this subject. We might, if our limits allowed, give quotations to the same effect, from the *Inquirer*, *Preston Chronicle*, *Bath Journal*, *Leeds Times*, *Birmingham Pilot*, *Blackburn Mercury*, *Cheltenham Free Press*, *Manchester Times*, *Glasgow Post*, *Glasgow Examiner*, *Norfolk News*, *Kilmarnock Herald*, *Scottish Herald*, and other journals, all strongly condemning the measure, on the broad principle of opposition to all grants for the support of religion. We have never, on any subject, observed a greater want of sympathy between liberal members and liberal constituencies as represented by the press. Which party is to give way, electors or their servants? We strongly urge the former to look carefully after the latter. The *Banner of Ulster* intimates that "notices to quit" will be served upon such of the northern representatives as may give their support to Sir Robert Peel on the Maynooth question.

Correspondence.

THE TRUE WAY TO OPPOSE THE MAYNOOTH GRANT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Although, on many occasions, so far as the agitation has proceeded in opposition to the proposed grant to Maynooth, proper sentiments have been expressed and the truth has not been withheld, yet, too frequently, has there been a narrowness of view manifested, calculated, and, if persevered in, destined, to mar the good work. Many persons have been led, in apparent unconsciousness, to treat it as a question between protestantism and popery, whereas the real objection to the scheme lies, as it appears to me, in its violation of the voluntary principle. To the readers of the *Nonconformist*, this must be so obvious as not to need enforcement. Refraining, therefore, from any argument on that point, and adverting simply to what is being done, permit me to say that, as a matter of policy, I conceive a somewhat different course should be adopted from that hitherto taken. It is true that petitions from dissenting bodies have generally expressed repugnance to state interference in religious matters. So far, so good; but here they have stopped. Now, I think, as this is the gist of the matter, and the origin of the evil (for, had there been no established church, there certainly had been no Maynooth grant), petitions should not only request the withdrawal of the proposed grant, and an abandonment of its allied and consequent measures; but, in order that a safeguard may be erected against such encroachments, and, as the only means of effectually dispelling national apprehensions for the future, they should pray the honourable House to be pleased to take into its very early consideration the propriety of discontinuing the connexion subsisting between the church and the state; for that, not until all interference on the part of the civil government with the religious concerns of the nation is brought to an end, will men (so far as human institutions operate) be able to "sit under their own vine and their own fig tree, none daring to make them afraid."

I say, do this, even simply as a matter of policy. Giving them credit for all sincerity, I am firmly of belief that the movements of the Protestant Association, and those which have more or less shared its sentiments and partaken of its character, go for nothing with the government, which, I feel sure, if it did not despise, deemed of no account, the meeting, large as it was, held at Exeter Hall about a fortnight since; and for the simple reason, that no danger would arise to any interest the ruling powers upheld from a thousand such gatherings. The course indicated above is that only which will stay the progress of the measure—the only one which will induce the government to halt, and the aristocracy of both parties to shrug their shoulders and consider whether they are not bringing a hornet's nest about their ears. Rely on it, only by their darling establishment—the refuge for their supernumerary sons and nephews—being brought into prospective peril, will they be induced to withhold their unhallowed gifts; for chiefly to save that establishment, here and across the channel,

were these mean bribes to the Romanists determined on. Submitting these suggestions to the many who have yet to petition, I remain, sir, your constant reader,
London, April 8th, 1845. S. K. W.

The Complete Suffrage Mobement.

At the meeting of the council of the National Complete Suffrage Union, held at Birmingham, on Monday, the following address was unanimously adopted:—

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union, to the Inhabitants of the Borough of Greenock.

A vacancy having occurred in the representation of Greenock, we would earnestly and respectfully entreat you to choose a representative who will acknowledge and act upon the principle that man as man, irrespective of all considerations as to the property he may possess, has a right to the elective franchise, and is prepared to vote for the extension of the suffrage to every male citizen of twenty years of age. In consistency with these opinions, such a candidate should make his election practically dependent on the suffrage of electors and non-electors combined; and to facilitate this end, we would submit for your earnest consideration the following resolutions, which recently received the unanimous sanction of this council.

[Here follow the resolutions which the council adopted in regard to the future policy at elections, which were published in the *Nonconformist*.]

On the constituency of Greenock now rests a heavy responsibility. Suffer us to urge you fully to realise that responsibility, and to express a confident hope that you may secure the services of a representative in parliament who will love principle for its own sake, and labour earnestly to obtain for the people "full, fair, and free representation." On behalf of the council,

JOSEPH STURGE,

Birmingham, 4th mo., 7th, 1845.

Chairman.

NATIONAL HALL, HOLBORN.—Mr Vincent addressed a large audience in this hall on Wednesday night last, on "The evil influence of aristocracy upon the general well-being of the people." The lecturer was listened to with great interest, and warmly cheered throughout. Mr Vincent lectures in the above hall this night (Wednesday), on the disputes and divisions in the church, and on the necessity for separating church and state.

HITCHIN, HERTFORD.—Mr Henry Vincent delivered his first lecture on popular education, in the Town hall, Hitchin, on Tuesday evening, the 1st inst., to a very numerous, attentive, and respectable audience. The lecture was of the most instructive and interesting character. The true principles of physical, mental, and moral education, were clearly enunciated and illustrated in a very striking manner. Arguments and observations to which a philosopher and a sage might have given utterance, were mingled with flowers of poesy, flashes of wit, and coruscations of genius which would do honour to the most imaginative writer of the present age. The impassioned peroration was a master-piece of eloquence, and reminded us of some of the orations recorded on the pages of classical antiquity. The lecturer was repeatedly cheered during his address, and a vote of thanks, at the close, was carried unanimously.—*Hertford Mercury*.

HITCHIN.—FRIDAY NIGHT.—Mr Vincent gave his second lecture on Friday night. The large hall was densely crowded. Mr Wayne, independent minister, introduced Mr Vincent to the meeting. The audience comprised a large proportion of the more influential of the inhabitants; and the principles enunciated by the lecturer were greeted with enthusiastic cheers. Mr Vincent returns shortly to lecture on civil and religious liberty.

EALING.—On Thursday evening last, Mr Vincent delivered a lecture on civil and religious liberty at the Temperance hall, Ealing. Mr Bontems, who was called to the chair, briefly expressed the pleasure he felt in introducing Mr Vincent, for the first time, to this somewhat aristocratic village; deprecating the stagnation of mind which had prevailed, in the absence of political agitation. Mr Vincent addressed the meeting in his usual style of poetic eloquence, and made a deep and, we hope, lasting impression. We are happy to know that many who were present from mere curiosity, and who before entertained a strong prejudice against Mr Vincent, and his principles, are now satisfied that they were grievously wrong. At the close of the lecture, a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr Adeney, independent minister, and seconded by Mr Cunningham, was carried by acclamation. Mr Adeney also proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr Vincent, and the meeting separated, with the understanding that another lecture would be announced at an early period. It was pleasing to see present several persons from a distance, who had heard Mr Vincent before, and were determined to encourage him in his efforts to "make the world better yet."

LEICESTER COMPLETE SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.—The monthly meeting of this association was held at the Town hall, on Tuesday evening. There was a more numerous attendance of members, and the proceedings were more animated than they had been for some months previous. Mr John Manning having been unanimously called to the chair, it was announced by the secretary that the principal business of the evening would be the election of the central and general committee for the ensuing year, of which that day was the commencement. Balloting lists were then given out, and the meeting proceeded to the election of twenty gentlemen to serve on the committee. As, however, the committee will not be complete until the several ward secretaries are elected, who form members of the general committee in virtue of their office, we must postpone the publication of the names till those have taken place. An interesting conversation then arose upon the

necessity of introducing discussions on political questions at the monthly meetings. Most of the members were of opinion, that such a course would add to the interest of the meeting, and attract larger attendances. The following proposition was then proposed and adopted for discussion at the next monthly meeting, on the first Tuesday in May, viz., "That as it is desirable that the working classes should labour less and enjoy more, what are the best means for the attainment of that object?" The secretary stated, that since the last meeting the mover and seconder of the resolution of sympathy with the Poles on the recurrence of their anniversary, had received the annual report of the society, with expressions of gratitude for the interest the Leicester Complete Suffrage Association had evinced in their cause, and that of freedom generally. A vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the meeting broke up.—*Leicestershire Mercury*.

General News.

FOREIGN.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The overland mail from Bombay, of the 1st of March, is almost destitute of news. The disturbances in Kholapore and Sawunt Warree had subsided. The insurgents in Sawunt Warree had not surrendered, but had passed into the Portuguese state of Goa; of which the Governor had incurred some embarrassing responsibility, by harbouring the fugitives. The Punjaub was still racked by intrigues; and the manifest concentration of British troops on the frontier, was imputed to an intention of making war upon the turbulent Sikhs. On the other side, Dost Mohammed, and his son, Akbar Khan, were watching the events in the Punjaub, probably contemplating some aggression. In Scinde, the sickness among the British troops was diminishing. No news had been heard of Sir Charles Napier's expedition.

From China, the accounts came down to the 23rd of January. Another instalment of the war-compensation had been paid: but everything was dull, both in politics and commerce—all parties awaiting the turn of the Chinese year.

SWITZERLAND.

The long-dreaded civil war has commenced in this distracted country. The free corps, which advanced into the canton of Lucerne, possessed themselves of an eminence that commanded the city of Lucerne, and, just as they were preparing to bombard it, a masterly movement of the government troops cut off the party who had reached the hill, and thus saved the place from their fire, and insured the overthrow of the insurgents. Their loss, the amount of the force considered, was immense. Six hundred of them, at least, including the leading men of the party, were supposed to have fallen, independently of a considerable number made prisoners. The rout of the free corps was complete. The remains of these corps had returned to their respective homes. At the date of the 4th, no further movements were spoken of. No estimate with pretension to correctness (says another account) can be attempted of the loss of the radicals, who walked literally into the trap prepared for them by General Sonnenberg. The Berne contingent numbered before the battle 2500 men, and of those only 500 or 600 (or about one-fifth) had returned to their territory.

In Berne great exertions had been made to strengthen the ranks of the government army. Seventeen battalions, besides sharpshooters and artillery, were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march at any moment.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Dr Wolff arrived safe at Malta, on the 25th of March, in the Duke of Cornwall, and was expected to leave again in the same vessel, for Southampton, on the following day. The envoy to England of the King of Bokhara appears to have taken upon himself to alter his destination; for after receiving at Constantinople a pretty broad hint that our gracious Sovereign could not receive the ambassador of an assassin, he has, it is reported, left on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

JESUITISM UNDER THE SANCTION OF GOVERNMENT AT MALTA.—The loyal people of Malta, good Roman Catholics as they nevertheless are, have been not a little startled by the following announcement in a local journal:—"We are enabled to state that a correspondence has passed between Lord Stanley and the Rev. Mr Lythgoe of Stonyhurst college, by which it appears that a "Convitto" (or boarding school) is likely to be established in Malta for the education of youth, to be conducted solely by Jesuits, natural born subjects of her Majesty, and on the principle of the Stonyhurst establishment in England; but that foreign Jesuits are not to be employed in the said Convitto."—*Malta paper*.

We are happy to announce the welcome fact, that the Norwegian Diet has just acceded to the propositions laid before it by the King, relative to a very considerable reduction in the duties on British manufactured goods [33 or 35 per cent. on cottons, woolens, and hard-ware].—*Times*.

A petition has been presented to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, praying that preliminary steps may be taken to amend the state constitution, so as to confer the right of suffrage upon the persons of colour. An animated debate sprang up on the 8th inst. upon a motion to refer the petition to the Judiciary committee, with instructions to report against the petition. The motion was finally adopted by yeas 17; nays 10.—*New York Evangelist*.

DISCOVERY OF A TREASURE.—Extract of a letter from Madras, dated Feb. 22:—"A Spanish schooner,

fishing, &c., among the shoals in the China sea, discovered a chain cable over the coral reef on the East London shoal, and on a close examination a sextant and a chronometer, and close to these articles what first appeared lead, but turned out to be Sycee silver, and 150,000 dollars' worth of the precious metal was found and put on board the schooner, when the skipper most honourably proceeded to Macao, or Canton, and there delivered the whole of the treasure to the insurance-office, who gave the noble-minded Spaniard about 50,000 rupees. It was conjectured in China that the bullion was part of the cargo of the Christina, as she sailed two years ago for China, and has never been heard of since. The names and numbers on the sextant and chronometer may afford a clue to the identity of the ship and captain."

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

NEW CONVENT AT CHELSEA.—A convent and new schools, dedicated to St Joseph, at Chelsea, were opened with great ceremony on Tuesday; the Honourable Edward Petre taking a prominent part in the proceedings. The preceptors of the schools are five nuns from the Convent at Bermondsey, and some monks from the Jesuit colleges in the North of England. The schools are founded by Mr Knight, the eminent horticulturist of King's road; who bought the property at a cost of £5,000, and erected the buildings at his own expense. His wife is buried under the altar of the chapel.

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.—The total number of deaths from all causes, within the bills of mortality, in the week ending on Saturday last, was 1,188, being an excess above the weekly average of the last five winters of 149, and above that of the last five years of no less than 225. The increase is principally perceptible in the number of deaths attributed to epidemic diseases and those affecting the organs of respiration.

A DRUNKARD'S FATE.—On Thursday Mr Baker held an inquest at the London Hospital on the body of Edward East, aged 49. It appeared that on Friday morning, deceased being dreadfully intoxicated, a little boy, between five and six years of age, had run between his legs and had thrown him down, when, slipping against the kerb-stone, his leg was broken. He was immediately conveyed to the above hospital. Mr Cummings, the house surgeon, stated that deceased's right leg had been fractured. There were no other injuries, but at the time he was brought in he was in a helpless state of intoxication. Delirium tremens subsequently supervened, from which deceased died. From the time of his admission up to the hour of his decease, he struggled in a most violent manner, shouting fiercely "Murder, and police," and he died strapped down to his bed.—*Verdict, "Natural death."*

RESPECTABLE "RUFFIANS."—The Bow street magistrates have resolved on using effectual means for punishing the brutality of "gentlemen" to whom the payment of a fine is a very light penalty; and on Saturday, Mr Twyford sent two "respectable" young men to prison for a month, for assaulting some policemen who had taken one of the culprits into custody while drunk. The gentlemen were very much astonished at this treatment.

THE MURDER IN ST GILES'S.—The capture of the murderer of the woman Roberts or Tape, in St Giles's, was effected on Friday afternoon. He had been lurking in some house in the neighbourhood ever since the murder. His name is James Connor, an Irishman, not twenty years of age! On Saturday the prisoner was taken before the Bow street magistrate, Mr Jardine, and, after a lengthened investigation, committed to Newgate, to take his trial at the ensuing session of the central criminal court.

PROVINCIAL.

THE GAME LAWS.—The occupiers of farms under the Duke of Bedford, besides the privilege of destroying rabbits, have now permission to course down the hares. We have, further, the best possible grounds for believing that his Grace has turned his most anxious consideration to the general subject of game preserving.—*County Press*.—The Marquis of Hertford has given directions to have the hares and rabbits on his Ragley estate, Warwickshire, destroyed; and has also liberally permitted his tenantry to kill the same on their several occupations.—*Worcester Chronicle*.

MEETING OF LABOURERS, RAMSBURY.—Another of those meetings which the agricultural labourers of this county have been holding during the last six or eight months, took place on Tuesday evening last in this village. Upwards of 1,000 persons, chiefly agricultural labourers, attended. From the tenor of all the speeches we should judge, even in this purely agricultural district, that "protection," under which the farmers are becoming ruined, and the labourers have become exceedingly destitute, is by no means popular, and that the corn law, under which rents have advanced and wages have dropped, is not looked upon with admiring eyes by the poor, who were to have been especially benefited by it.—*Wills Independent*.

EARLY CLOSING OF SHOPS.—In the *Brighton Guardian* of Wednesday appears the following advertisement:—"The inhabitants and visitors of Brighton are respectfully requested to take notice, that in deference to the resolutions passed by the very large and respectable public meeting held at the Town hall on Friday, the 28th March, and in accordance with the wishes of the assistants, the establishments connected with the drapery and hosiery trades, &c., will for the future, by unanimous consent, be closed at the following hours:—December, January, February, seven o'clock p.m.; March,

April, September, October, November, eight o'clock p.m.; May, June, July, August, nine o'clock p.m.—We learn from the *Leicester Mercury* that the drapers of that town have consented to meet the wishes of their assistants by closing their shops at eight o'clock during the summer months, and their example has been followed by most of the principal shopkeepers of the town.

THE PEOPLE'S HALL, Birmingham.—a monument of the enterprise and good taste of the working classes of that town—was opened on Monday week. It will accommodate about 1,500 people, and is well adapted for the delivery of lectures, meetings, &c. A bust of Major Cartwright is its only ornament.

JAMES SIMPSON, Esq., of Edinburgh, the active advocate of social improvement among the working classes, delivered addresses at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Monday and Tuesday evening last week, to crowded audiences, "on the present bath and sanitary movement, and on the improvement generally of the character and condition of the working classes." The Mayor presided. Mr Simpson said that he was now on a tour through England, and intended, before returning home, to visit many of the largest towns—Sunderland, Leeds, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Bradford, Derby, Coventry, Birmingham, &c.

FREE LABOUR SUGAR.—The ship *Liverpool*, Captain M'Dowal, arrived here on Saturday last from Manilla, with the largest parcel of free-labour sugar that was ever brought to this port, being nearly 20,000 bags. Under the recent act of parliament it is admissible for home use, and we are informed that a large proportion of it is very suitable for grocery purposes.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

ABSTINENCE FROM THE USE OF SLAVE-GROWN PRODUCE.—George William Alexander, Esq., the treasurer of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, met the committee of the Birmingham society, and other friends to the cause, at the Public office, on Saturday afternoon, principally with a view of stating his own opinion, and ascertaining that of the gentlemen present, as to the duty of individuals present to abstain, as much as practicable, from the use of cotton and all other articles cultivated by slave labour. The subject was fully and candidly discussed; and though the difficulties of avoiding the use of such articles, in all cases, appeared to some present as overwhelming, yet it was unanimously agreed that it would be right to give a preference to the productions cultivated by freemen; and all present said they should be glad to give such preference, could they obtain the articles required. Mr G. W. Alexander contended that it was not improbable a manufactory might ere long be established, in which no cotton cultivated by slaves would be used. A conversational meeting, on the same subject, was also held at the Friends' meeting house.—*Birmingham Pilot*.

A FAMILY PARTY OF FOUR GENERATIONS.—There is at present residing at Ham's Barton farm, in the parish of Chudleigh, a family, consisting of four generations, all in the enjoyment of perfect health, who may be seen daily sitting together at the same festive board—viz., the great grandfather in his 94th year; the grandmother in her 70th year; the mother in her 40th year; and her son in his 22nd year.—*Western Times*.

DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—A fearful explosion of fire-damp occurred on Thursday evening in the West Moor pit, at Killingworth, about six miles from Newcastle-on-Tyne. Ten men and boys have fallen victims, and two others were got not alive, and are in a fair way of recovery.

RAILWAY LUGGAGE TRUCK ON FIRE.—A destructive fire took place on the Great Western railway, on Thursday morning last, about the hour of one o'clock. On the luggage and goods train arriving near to the Goring station, one of the guards discovered the truck, which was heavily loaded with spirits, sugar, drapery, and merchandise, directed to several tradesmen in Oxford, to be on fire. He gave an immediate alarm to the drivers of the two front engines, who stopped the train, which consisted of about thirty carriages. The immediate attendance of the servants connected with the train at the Goring station was given, and they, with great difficulty, released the four hind trucks, as well as those in front, leaving the one a complete body of fire, which illuminated the horizon for many miles. In an hour's time, the whole of the valuable property was totally destroyed, as well as the truck, there only remaining the iron wheels and iron work belonging to the carriage. Information was forwarded to the Didcombe station, when a pilot engine was dispatched to remove the remaining portions of the truck, &c., so that the carriages might not be impeded in traveling to or from London. The loss is supposed to be above £2,000.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—On Thursday evening last, while a woman, by the name of Curtis, living about a mile and a half from Barnet, Herts, was sitting alone by the fire, a coal, ejected from it, fell unnoticed upon her gown. Roused immediately by a smell of burning, she discovered the cause; her clothes instantly ignited, and in a moment she was one entire blaze. Affrighted, she had not the presence of mind to endeavour herself to extinguish the flames, but ran out into the yard to her husband, who, with another man, was tending his cows. Finding their united efforts to check the progress of the destroying agent, now the more potent through her exposure to wind, ineffectual; one ran for a pail of water, but ere this was obtained and thrown over her, the poor woman was burnt from head to foot. So disfigured was her face, it could scarcely be recognised as that of a human being. In this state of severe suffering, she lingered on until the morning of Saturday, when, at half-past four o'clock, death removed her, we trust, to a world where pain is unknown. She endured with Christian patience and

exemplary resignation. She said (for she enjoyed the sane exercise of her mind till within a few hours of death) "God has promised 'When we pass through the fire it shall not consume us, and through the waters, they shall not overflow us.' Though his people must not expect exemption from bodily suffering, he has promised his grace to support them in their trials." All her neighbours esteemed her, and knew her to be a Christian. As they admired, so may they imitate her!—*Correspondent.*

MORAL EFFECTS OF HANGING.—Another testimony has been given of the moral effects of capital punishments. Two Windsor boys, twelve and fourteen years old respectively, broke open a box and stole money belonging to the mother and brother of one of them, to obtain funds wherewith they might go to Aylesbury "to see the quaker hanged!" They went, and on their return from the exhibition were apprehended for the robbery.

THE STOCKPORT FORGERY.—John Kenyon Winterbottom, the Stockport solicitor, who was convicted in December last of forging an indorsement on a bill of exchange for £5,000, which belonged to clients of his, thus defrauding the Pelican Life Assurance Company, was sentenced at Chester, on Tuesday, to be transported for life. Certain objections had been raised against the conviction, but the judges had overruled them.

TRIALS FOR INCENDIARISM.—At Bury St Edmunds, last week, a boy nine years old was convicted of setting fire to a haulm stack. After telling a number of falsehoods, the boy admitted that he had pulled some straw from the stack and lighted it to warm himself; and the flames then caught the stack. At the same assizes, Dew, a labourer, was found guilty of firing the premises of two farmers, in July and October last; and was sentenced to be transported for life. The prisoner had inadvertently confessed his criminality to a man a few weeks since; and when in prison he was tricked into another admission of it by a policeman. There have been five other convictions for similar offences. In one case the accused were of the ages of seventeen and eleven years.

EXECUTION OF JOHN BROUGH, THE FRATRICIDE, AT STAFFORD.—This unhappy criminal, who was found guilty of the murder of his brother Thomas, expiated his offence on the public gallows, on Saturday morning, in front of the county gaol, making the fifth murderer who has suffered the extreme penalty of the law in this town during the last twelve months. The mob was not so great as had been the case on previous occasions; in fact, throughout the whole, a feeling of deep commiseration was felt for the culprit.—*Chronicle.*

THE SHAPWICK MURDER.—On Saturday, Sarah Freeman was tried for the wilful murder of Charles Dimond (her brother), at Shapwick, by administering to him arsenic. After a long investigation, a verdict of "Guilty" was returned; and Mr Justice Coleridge passed sentence of death upon the prisoner, assuring her that no mercy would be extended to her.

IRELAND.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At the weekly meeting, on Monday, Mr O'Connell took occasion to denounce the riband system at present in existence in this country. He urged repealers to adopt the most conciliatory line of conduct towards their opponents, and under no circumstances to be induced to commit a breach of the peace. Mr S. O'Brien read a report from the judges appointed to consider the essays on the repeal of the Union; from which it appeared that forty-eight essays were sent in, each of which the judges read separately, assigning the first prize to Mr M. J. Barry (a barrister), and the second to Mr M. Staunton, the editor and proprietor of the *Weekly Register*. A third prize was given for the essay, signed, "An Irish Protestant," the writer of which, it was stated, refused to give his name. Mr O'CONNELL announced that he had accepted an invitation to a dinner and procession at Dundalk, to take place on Thursday, the 2nd of May. A similar invitation had been sent to him from the county of Meath for the 22nd of May, or *Corpus Christi*-day, which he had also accepted. He said that he also wished to announce that he intended to suggest to the association the propriety of having a grand banquet at Clontarf on the 30th of May next. The hon. gentleman next handed in some money from Staten island, New York, and expressed his strong opposition to the proposed annexation of Texas as a slave state to the confederation. He then condemned the Americans generally for their support of slavery. The rent for the fortnight since the last meeting was announced to be £473 9s.

A TRIFF BANQUET.—We understand that during the Easter holidays Sir Robert Peel gave an experimental entertainment, founded on the last new tariff, to the poor in his immediate neighbourhood. The provisions included most of the luxuries on which the duty has just been repealed, and the hospitable board groaned beneath the weight of whales' fins, fustic, and other similar delicacies, which the Premier's policy has rendered accessible to his poorer countrymen. Besides this munificent repast, every poor family was allowed two pounds of beef-wood, four ounces of divi divi, a couple of hocks, a quarter of a pound of bees-wax, and a quart of generous sanguis draconis to wash them down with. We understand that the Premier will endeavour to introduce fustic as an article of general consumption among the labourers on his estate, and will distribute ginseng to all who will pledge themselves to eat it. These are real proofs of what Sir Robert Peel has done for the poor man by the new tariff.—*Punch.*

THE REVENUE.

Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of Great Britain, in the Years and Quarters ended 5th April, 1844 and 1845, showing the Increase or Decrease thereof.

	YEARS ENDED APRIL 5th,			
	1844.	1845.	Increase	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	19,458,129	20,176,731	718,602	....
Excise	11,880,123	12,244,907	364,784	....
Stamps	6,472,040	6,714,840	242,800	....
Taxes	4,192,473	4,217,748	25,275	....
Property Tax	5,356,887	5,104,448	....	252,439
Post-office	622,000	679,000	57,000	....
Crown Lands	147,500	125,000	....	22,500
Miscellaneous	1,134,477	1,067,354	....	67,128
Total Ordinary Revenue	49,263,629	50,810,028	1,388,461	342,062
Imprest and other Monies	205,865	429,901	224,036	....
Repayments of Advances for Public Works	927,483	1,067,774	140,291	....
Total Income	50,396,977	51,807,703	1,752,788	342,062
Deduct Decrease .....	....	....	342,062	....
Increase on the Year .....	....	....	1,410,726	....

	QUARTERS ENDED APRIL 5th,			
	1844.	1845.	Increase	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	4,604,447	4,402,506	....	201,941
Excise	1,852,689	1,917,485	64,796	....
Stamps	1,639,011	1,742,461	103,450	....
Taxes	144,685	145,945	1,260	....
Property Tax	1,992,859	1,905,711	....	87,148
Post-office	174,000	178,000	4,000	....
Crown Lands	65,000	35,000	....	30,000
Miscellaneous	41,292	415,016	373,524	....
Total Ordinary Revenue	10,513,983	10,742,124	547,280	319,089
Imprest and other Monies	54,244	206,007	151,773	....
Repayments of Advances for Public Works	226,284	418,545	192,261	....
Total Income	10,794,511	11,366,676	891,254	319,089
Deduct Increase .....	....	....	319,089	....
Increase on the Quarter .....	....	....	572,165	....

Income and Charge on the Consolidated Fund, in the Quarters ended April 5, 1844 and 1845.

INCOME.	QUARTERS ENDED 5th APRIL,	
	1844.	1845.
	£	£
Customs	3,950,847	3,900,846
Excise	1,867,586	1,934,471
Stamps	1,639,011	1,742,461
Taxes	144,685	145,945
Property Tax	1,992,859	1,905,711
Post-office	174,000	178,000
Crown Lands	65,000	35,000
Miscellaneous	41,292	22,951
Produce of Sycamore silver from China .....	....	392,065
Imprest and other Monies	54,244	206,007
Repayments of Advances	226,284	418,545
	10,155,308	10,882,092
To Cash brought to this Account to be applied to pay off Deficiency Bills .....	....	100,000
	10,155,308	10,982,092

CHARGE.	QUARTERS ENDED 5th APRIL,	
	1844.	1845.
	£	£
Permanent Debt	3,532,232	5,704,180
Terminable Annuities	1,324,273	1,307,059
Interest on Exchequer Bills issued to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund	9,392	480
Sinking Fund	360,826	839,026
Civil List	97,597	97,785
Other Charges on the Consolidated Fund For Advances and to pay off Exchequer Bills issued for Advances	240,000	380,000
Total Charge	5,941,229	8,710,003
Surplus	4,214,072	2,271,999
	10,155,308	10,982,002

Amount of Exchequer Bills issued to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund for the Quarter ended 5th Jan., 1845, and paid off out of the growing Produce of that Fund for the Quarter ended 5th April, 1845 .....	....	1,495,929
Amount issued in the Quarter ended 5th April, 1845, in part of the Sums granted by Parliament out of the Consolidated Fund, for Supply Services	3,713,599	....
The Surplus of the Consolidated Fund, Quarter ended 5th April, 1845	2,271,999	1,441,600
The probable Amount of Exchequer Bills required to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund, Quarter ended 5th April, 1845 .....	....	2,937,529

Prince Albert is expected to lay the foundation stone of the Agricultural College at Cirencester.—*Gloucester Chronicle.*

Some hundreds of petitions have been lately presented to parliament for the abolition of the sale of spirits and strong drinks on the Lord's-day. Last week the Bishop of London presented, in the House of Lords, no less than eighty of these petitions.

STATISTICS OF SUICIDE.—There were 901 ascertained suicides registered in England in 1840—viz., 618 males and 283 females; 28 of the male and 35 of the female suicides were less than twenty years of age. The proportion of the male suicides to 1,000,000 persons was 80, and of the female suicides 35.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

A GAME OF CHESS EXTRAORDINARY is to be played on Thursday next, between London and Southampton, by the aid of the electric telegraph.

RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN ROGUES AND HONEST MEN.—A knave's word, like an honest man's, is as good as his oath.

"I see the villain in your face," said a Western judge to an Irish prisoner. "May't please your worship," replied Pat, "that must be a personal reflection, sure."

A GOOD BOOK.—A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.—*Milton.*

THE FALLOW MIND.—The mind that lies fallow but a single day, sprouts up in follies that are only to be killed by a constant and assiduous culture.—*Addison.*

PARLIAMENTARY PROTECTION OF THE FAIR SEX.—It is said that Parliament will never sanction the atrocious proposal of confining ladies who travel by rail in carriages. They would be sure to "fall out by the way."

Two morning papers in London, the *Times* and *Herald*, incur £12,000 a-year expense in one item of their outlay; viz., in bringing intelligence from India.

MAKING SURE.—Mr F. Pakenham, rector of Inch, has written a letter to the *Times*, in which he states that, lest his congregation, to whom he was a subject of suspicion, should suppose that he kept holy water in the font, he had bored a hole in the bottom of it.

SOWING GOOD SEED.—Mr Cobden's speech in moving for a committee on agricultural distress was published in a pamphlet form, and sold for a penny. Up to Saturday last six thousand copies of it had been disposed of, and another thousand issued.

THE PRESIDENT'S OATH.—It is not generally known—and the touching circumstance ought to be published to the whole world—that the Bible on which Mr Polk took the presidential oath was very handsomely bound for the purpose in the skin of a negro.—*Punch.*

Mr Frederick Ransome, of Ipswich, has discovered a mode of rendering the hardest stone as ductile as putty; and when cut or moulded at will, it becomes as hard as before. It can be made of any colour, and brushed over the surface of wood, or used as a cement. Mr Ransome has patented his processes.

BOZ AND HIS PUBLISHERS.—Mr Charles Dickens has, it is said, again, for the third time, quarreled with his publishers, Messrs Chapman and Hall, they being now in the same predicament as regards this extraordinarily successful author, as were before them the late John Macrone and the existing Richard Bentley. Boz is about to start a magazine of his own, with what success time alone, of course, can determine.

PAT IN THE PLAYHOUSE.—The drama by Sophocles, entitled "Antigone," recently revived in London, was performed the other night in Dublin. At the end of the play there was a loud and general "call" for the author; and the manager was obliged to come before the curtain, and beg that Sophocles might be excused, as he had been dead two thousand years!

Mr Weekes's plan for lighting towns by electricity is about to be carried into effect in America. The editor of the *Cincinnati Mechanic* states, that an experiment he lately witnessed was perfectly successful; that the apparatus is by no means costly; and that for lighting Cincinnati, two towers, it is considered, will be sufficient to illuminate the whole city. Mr Weekes's plan was first published in this country as far back as 1831.—*Builder.*

"THE QUEEN'S INK."—An ingenious baronet, celebrated as a chemist and agriculturist, is said to have invented a colourless and innocuous ink, imparting no stain, except to paper of a peculiar kind—or rather of two kinds—on one of which the writing is black, and on the other blue. It is called "The Queen's Ink," because her Majesty has given it her approval.

General Tom Thumb is turning the heads of the French. The *Vieille de Dieppe* calls him "Tom Pouce," and says his legs are not bigger than the neck of a bottle; his arms are likened to the smallest cigars, his head to that of a cat, and his body to a Chamberlain bottle. The dwarf Bébé, whose diminutive body is embalmed in the Salle of the School of Medicine, might have been a drum-major (says the *Vieille*) by the side of "Tom Pouce."

An astrologer sent a letter to the *Bradford Observer*. The editor said he would believe that "there was something in astrology, if the writer could tell him whether he would ever insert the letter; and if so, when." The cunning astrologer replied that he had consulted the stars, and found that the letter would never be inserted. The editor, by way of undermining astrology, published the communication immediately; and the "wise man," having carried his point, "laughed in his sleeve."

HOW TO PREDICT THE WEATHER.—Many rules for predicting the characteristics of forthcoming seasons have from time to time been put forth. The following we have from an intelligent farmer, who has made the weather his study for twenty years past:—"Observe the wind," says he, "when the sun crosses the equinoctial line, about the 30th of March and the 12th of September. If the prevailing wind be in an easterly direction, a dry season will follow; if in the west or south-west, the succeeding season will be distinguished by rain. I have remarked this for years, and, by noting it, have been enabled to predict the weather with an accuracy that has surprised many.—*Brighton Herald.*—[If this prediction is to be relied upon, we are to have a wet season, seeing that the wind was in the south-west, not only on the 30th of March, but for many days before and several days after the 30th of March.]

HER MAJESTY has granted to the Literary Fund the privilege of bearing the imperial crown as an addition to its armorial bearings, with the title of "The Royal Corporation of the Literary Fund." The sum dispensed by this institution to distressed authors and their families was last year £955, and since its formation £31,183.

THE RIGHT OF SEARCH QUESTION. — We give a brief summary of the correspondence between the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society and the Foreign office, on the "right of search," referred to in our last week's number. The letter of the Society is signed, "On behalf of the Committee, Thos. Clarkson, president," and is dated on the 1st of March, 1845. It points out that the Society has always looked to the abolition of slavery as the only means of annihilating the slave trade, and has, therefore, "never countenanced the suppression of the slave trade by an armed force." The history of the traffic for many years past abundantly proves "the inefficiency, not to say impolicy, of that mode of suppression." The treaties for the purpose are defective; are rendered a dead letter by the positive bad faith of foreign powers; are impracticable, on account of the extent of the coast to be watched; and while the armed force is maintained at an immense cost, its use has aggravated the horrors of the traffic.

Governments may enter into negotiations, engage in treaties, enact laws, and promulgate ordinances for the abolition of the slave trade; but the experience of thirty years has proved that all will be in vain if they are not in unison with the feelings and not supported by the opinions of the people themselves. What, then, is to be done? The committee would respectfully reply, Direct all your energies and influence against the system of slavery. . . . An opportunity is now afforded.

France asks to be relieved from the right of search; in her case the equivalent should be the complete and immediate abolition of slavery in her colonial possessions. This would be a guarantee—the best guarantee which could be given—that her flag should not be surreptitiously employed in feeding them at least with slaves. And in asking this great act of justice and mercy from France, no indignity would be offered; for her government, her legislative Chambers, and her people, have resolved that the abolition of slavery shall take place. It is, then, simply a question of time. Let that be fixed; and the day which proclaims freedom to the unfortunate slaves, in Martinique and Guadalupe, in Bourbon and Cayenne, in Senegal and Algiers, be the epoch fixed for the abandonment of the right of search. Lord Aberdeen replies through his under secretary, Viscount Canning. He expresses concurrence in much that the society say, and promises "respectful consideration" of the suggestion made; but he denies that the past course has been without good fruit. Portugal has of late executed in good faith the treaty of 1842; Spain has "redeemed the engagement of the treaty taken in 1835 for the enactment of a penal law of great severity against the slave trade; and, though the unhappy beings yearly landed on the coast of Brazil may still be reckoned by thousands, the increasing demand for labour in that country places it beyond all doubt, that but for the operation of British cruisers, the numbers would have been many times multiplied." The letter closes as follows:—

But the influence of one country upon the domestic institutions of another, those institutions being recognised and upheld by the laws, and closely interwoven with the habits and interests of the people, can rarely be otherwise than slow and uncertain; and it becomes a matter of grave consideration, whether, in the hope of being able to contribute to the eventual abolition of slavery in Cuba and Brazil, the government of England would do wisely to abandon those means of direct action against the slave trade, which, though far from complete in their operation, have not been without their good effect, and are likely, as Lord Aberdeen confidently trusts, to gain in efficiency.

THE HEALTH OF TOWNS COMMISSION have made their second report, founded on the evidence they have obtained as to the state of large towns and populous districts. The report contains a lucid summary of the causes to which the investigations, by the commission, have led them to ascribe much of the prevalent disease and mortality in large towns and populous districts. These appear to be in general reducible to two heads:—a bad supply of pure air, and a bad supply of pure water. The following is their summary of the measures which they think necessary.

"That for the effectual correction of the evils above adverted to, additional legislative measures are requisite.

"It is necessary that the Crown should have power to inspect and supervise the execution of all general measures for the sanitary regulations of large towns and populous districts.

"That the local authorities intrusted with the execution of such measures should be armed with additional powers, and that the districts placed under their jurisdiction should in many cases be enlarged, and made co-extensive with the natural areas for drainage.

"That the necessary arrangements for draining, paving, cleansing, and an ample supply of water (the most important matters conducive to health), should be placed under one administrative (local) body."

The commissioners also "urge the necessity of some general sanitary regulations relative to building, and the width of streets, and that low lodging-houses should be placed under public inspection and control."

SECOND NIGER EXPEDITION. — The commercial writer in the *Times* announces, that "though the fact has not yet come prominently into public notice, another expedition to the river Niger has been organised, and is by this time far on the way to its destination." The subscription for it has been raised chiefly in London and in Liverpool; and at the head of the former list is the name of the late Sir T. F. Buxton for £500. The command of the expedition is intrusted to Captain John Beecroft, who was second in command under Colonel Nicholl at Fernando Po;

and this will be his fourth ascent of that river, so that he may be said to be perfectly seasoned to the climate. He is accompanied by Dr King, and the same engineer who went with him in his former voyages; and, to guard further against the fatality which visited the previous expedition, the rest of the crew is composed of Africans. Among the assistants to the engineers is an African youth, nineteen years of age, who has had the advantage of ten years' education here, the scientific part of which was obtained in the engineering department of Woolwich dockyard; and who worked the Wilberforce up the Niger in the last trip she made, also down that river, and to Fernando Po, and back to England. Several of the crew are expert seamen and boatmen; others are good tradesmen; and all are able to read and write—also professing the Christian religion. The tradesmen are to be left, with certain proportions of merchandise, at the most populous and convenient stations on the river Niger and its tributaries, to collect a cargo for the Ethiopians, the vessel fitted out for the exploration of the river; where she arrived, according to accounts received, on the 22nd November last from Liverpool; and is to remain until the proper time for ascending the Niger in July next, or be employed meantime in surveying the entrances of several rivers on the coast, from the Old Calabar to the Congo."

THE IMMIGRATION SCHEME. — We are pleased to record the fact that the friends of the anti-slavery cause are stirring in various parts of the country against the nefarious scheme of African and Asiatic emigration to the British colonies. Among the towns in which meetings have been held, or where committees have met, intimation has been given us of the following—Leeds, Exeter, St Austel, Cotherstone, Aberdeen, Torquay, Stoke Newington, Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Derby, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North Shields, Kendal, Southampton, Youghal, Darlington, Colchester, &c. We may also add that arrangements are making for holding meetings in Nottingham, Sheffield, York, Sunderland, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Carlisle, Preston, Liverpool, Manchester, and other places, on the same important subject. We trust our friends, in other parts of the country, will forward petitions as early as possible, for presentation to the House of Commons.—*Anti-slavery Reporter.*

Postscript.

Wednesday, April 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

POST OFFICE ESPIONAGE. — Mr THOMAS DUNCOMBE, last night, brought on his motion for the introduction of a bill to secure the inviolability of letters passing through the Post office, and supported it in a very effective speech, recapitulating the arguments which have been so often used on the subject. He called on the government to aid him in his present proposition; he was willing to bury the past in oblivion, if from henceforth they deprived all administrations of the right of treacherously administering to the sneaking wishes of foreign powers. Dr BOWRING seconded the motion, inquiring if the Home Secretary had ascertained whether or not his accusations against Mr Mazzini were correct. Sir JAMES GRAHAM had made his previous statements on the highest authority, but was now engaged in inquiries, the result of which, when completed, he would communicate without reserve or hesitation. With regard to Mr Duncombe's motion, the power was odious to a minister to exercise; but he was obliged to consider his duty as a minister of the crown, as well as the public good. In the course of his speech, he gave a piece of information. No Secretary of State could now open a letter in the Post-office without three persons being cognizant of it. But though a record was kept of the warrants issued for opening the letters of criminals, he admitted that no record had hitherto been kept of the warrants issued for opening letters on political grounds. Sir R. PEEL had proposed a new regulation to be observed in the offices of the Secretaries of State, by which a record would be kept of all the warrants for opening letters for political causes. He concluded by declaring his intention of opposing the motion. Lord JOHN RUSSELL also could not support Mr Duncombe. He cited the opinion of Lord DENMAN, who thinks no warrant for opening letters should be issued, unless on information on oath. With such a check as this, he considered it necessary that it should be left to the government a power of opening letters. Mr WARBURTON (a member of the late committee), thought that Mr Duncombe had brought forward the only motion which it was expedient to make on this question. In a lengthened historical examination of the subject, he maintained that neither by common law nor by statute law had ministers any power to open letters in the Post office. Lord HOWICK declared his intention to vote for Mr Duncombe's motion. He thought, however, that the power of opening letters might safely exist if secrecy were taken away from the practice. The practice of opening letters was morally wrong, and therefore could not be politically right. Accompanied, as it was, with the system of forging seals, it was a system of organised and legalised hypocrisy. After a few words from Mr HUME, in favour of the motion, Mr DUNCOMBE replied. He declared that if law or justice were to be found in the country, he would bring the existence of this power to a legal test; for he said that his letters had been opened in the Post office. He would take Sir James Graham, if he could, into the court of Queen's Bench. The country would then see whether the warrant would be produced, and, if it were produced, he pledged himself to try its legality. The House then divided, when the motion was negatived by a majority of 161 over 78 votes.

HEALTH OF TOWNS. — Mr MACKINNON, in a long speech, proposed a resolution condemnatory of the practice of interment in towns, with a due regard to vested rights, his object being to bring in a bill founded on it, and which he would cheerfully give up to the care of the government, if the House would aid him with its sanction. Mr HUME seconded the motion. Sir JAMES GRAHAM palliated the system of burial in towns; and, taking into account the increase of cemeteries, along with the difficulty of interference, he objected to committing the House to any abstract resolution. After further discussion, Mr T. DUNCOMBE, with the assent of Mr Mackinnon, proposed an amendment on the resolution, which it was hoped would obviate objections. The amendment simply asserted that the practice of interments in large towns was injurious to the health of the population, and demanded the serious attention of parliament. He believed that the clergy were the chief obstacles to any change in the system. Sir JAMES GRAHAM pointed out the difficulties of legislation on the subject, especially in connexion with the vested interests of the church and dissenters, and could not consent to pass an abstract resolution on the subject. Mr Mackinnon's resolution was withdrawn, and Mr Duncombe's substituted; and notwithstanding the opposition of the Home Secretary, was affirmed by 66 to 49, amidst triumphant cheers.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS. — Mr MILNER GIBSON moved an humble address to the Crown, expressive of the desirableness of means being taken to provide for the establishment of an adequate system of agricultural statistics, so as to enable the country to be kept accurately informed of the amount of land under cultivation, the produce of the harvest, and so forth. After some discussion, Sir R. PEEL said that government would endeavour to procure the information, if it could.

A host of petitions were presented last night against the grant to Maynooth.

The House of Lords, after transacting some routine business, adjourned until Friday. Many petitions against the grant to Maynooth were presented during the sitting.

IMPORTANT. — We stop the press to state that a deputation of the central committee appointed to oppose the incorporation and establishment of Maynooth college, headed by Sir C. E. Smith, Bart, Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., have just had an interview with Sir Robert Peel, to request him to delay the second reading, which he positively refused. Not a moment is, therefore, to be lost in forwarding petitions to members of parliament.

THE GRANT TO MAYNOOTH. — The Liverpool Anti-Maynooth, or rather no-papery, demonstration, came off, on Monday, at the Amphitheatre of that town. About 3000 persons were present. "The auditory (says the *Times*) was composed principally of persons in the middle and working classes; and the ladies were considerably fewer than we have seen on similar displays in the same place. Notorious as this place has long been for, perhaps, ultra-protestantism, we were scarcely prepared to find the tone of the entire proceedings so moderate and unexceptionable. The points which elicited the most strongly expressed feelings were those which referred to Lord Sandon's active support of ministers on this question." The *Times* also contains the report of a great meeting held last evening at the Eastern Institution, of nearly 2,000 of the clergy and inhabitants of Stepney; Mr W. Champneys, rector of Whitechapel, occupied the chair; and the speakers were exclusively clergymen. The aggregate meeting of all denominations of dissenters took place last evening at Finsbury chapel, which was crowded to overflowing. About 3,000 persons were present. Sir C. E. Smith presided, and Mr Hindley, M.P., Dr Morison, Mr J. R. Mills, Mr Burnet, Mr Blackburn, and Mr Wire, were the speakers. The resolutions objected to popery, as well as to all grants to religious sects by the state. Mr Hindley stated that several members of the House of Commons intended to call for more time for the public consideration of the matter, or otherwise to move that an address be presented to her Majesty, entreating her to refuse her consent to the passing of the bill, and either to dismiss her present ministers, or to dissolve the Parliament; and the Chairman mentioned, that there were twelve men in the House prepared to move continual adjournments until the Premier gave time to the country to consider the question. The *Chronicle* says, "There is a rumour that Mr Fitzroy, the lately appointed Lord of the Admiralty, and Captain Meynell, Groom in waiting to her Majesty, have been dismissed from their situations for absenting themselves from the division on the Maynooth endowment measure."

A Northampton correspondent writes:— We are stirring at last. Petitions, embodying the principle on which all opposition to the measure should be founded, so clearly laid down in Dr Cox's admirable letter, contained in your last, lay for signature at most of the chapels during the past sabbath. On Monday evening a public meeting was held in the large room occupied by the Wesleyan Association. Mr J. C. Westbrook (an independent) presided, and the meeting was addressed by Messrs Phillips and Williams (baptist ministers), Mr Garside (pastor of the congregation), and other gentlemen. A petition was drawn up, containing the substance of the resolutions—namely, objection to the endowment of religion, even in its purest forms—which was numerously signed.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	880	1970	•			
Scotch....						
Irish	••		1200			
Foreign ..		800	5770			

There is not much business doing.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. B. C. D." should give his name and address.
 "An Independent and a Lover of Public Decency." We noticed the fact in our last week's number.
 "W. S. C." We accept his letters, to be inserted *seriatim*, if he will allow us to choose a less busy time than the present for their insertion. If this condition is not agreeable to him, we will return them.
 "C. T." shall be inserted as a paragraph next week.
 "A Homœopathist." His letter came too late for insertion this week, but shall appear next.
 The communication from Kettering has only been excluded by the pressure of more important intelligence. We hope, however, not to lose sight of the main points referred to in the report.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
 For 7 lines...5s. 0d. For 10 lines...6s. 0d.
 For every additional line...4d.

Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1845.

SUMMARY.

As public business since our last has proceeded with more than ordinary briskness, and many subjects of interest have turned up, we must be brief in our comments, and must deviate somewhat from our usual plan, by taking subjects in their order of importance rather than of time.

And first, for the increased grant to Maynooth. A storm, as we predicted, is brewing. Petitions are going up to the House of Commons by thousands. Public meetings, crowded, determined, and enthusiastic, outstrip the possibility of bare enumeration. Constituencies are beginning to act upon their representatives, and to remind them of the proximity of another general election. The work is going on bravely, but, as yet, it is but half done. Henceforth, as suggested by an intelligent correspondent, whose letter will be found in another column, let every petition emanating from dissenters conclude with a prayer for the separation of the church from the state—and what is done, let it be done at once. The crisis is a more important one for the destinies of the country than has occurred during the last two centuries. We are wrestling a throw with the state-church principle, and either it will master us, or we must master it. Let there be no howling against popery as such. The doctrines and discipline of the Roman catholic church, objectionable as they are, ought not to form the basis of our opposition to the grant. Let every complaint tell directly upon the impolicy and unscriptural character of state endowments of religion. The House of Commons is teaching the people of England a lesson. Let the people of England teach the House of Commons another—let the truth be reiterated in their ears, that so far from consenting to two establishments, it will not be our fault if we retain one.

Sir R. Peel brought forward his proposal in the House of Commons on Thursday night. Before he rose to do so, the Speaker called upon those members who had petitions on the question to present them at once. Upwards of 200 representatives started from their seats, and pointed their several rolls towards the table. Nothing disconcerted, the Prime Minister soon after entered upon a detailed statement of his plan. His arguments seemed founded upon the inconsistencies of all parties. The high churchmen he speedily bowed out of court. The dissenters he taxed, by implication, with past apathy. His speech may be summed up in few words. "You have quietly allowed the legislature, during fifty years past, to take such and such steps in the wrong direction—you have never protested—you have not even moved. This bill, which I am about to introduce, embodies no principle which you have not tacitly sanctioned. You pay the Roman catholic clergy in Canada, in Malta, and in Mauritius. You appoint Roman Catholic chaplains to the workhouses in Ireland. You have already supported popery by state subsidies—how, then, can you complain at my adoption of your own principle?" The opposition was led by Sir R. H. Inglis, sustained by Mr Law and Mr Plumptre, and graced by Colonel Sibthorp. Government was supported with more than usual ardour by the whole phalanx of whigs and whig-radicals, led on by Lord John Russell and Mr Ward. In the division list we find the names of Cobden, Villiers, Thorneley, Roebuck, Christie, Milner Gibson, and others of that stamp. In the minority, if not in a more prominent position, we certainly should have found the name of Sharman Crawford, but for a heavy and unexpected domestic affliction which prevented that honourable gentleman from being in his place; and probably, we conjecture, that of Mr Bright, had not a similar calamity called him elsewhere; and we did find the name of Thomas Duncombe, whose short speech, at the end of the debate, threw greater light upon the real question at issue than those of all the other members put together. Let not the country be down-hearted in consequence of temporary defeat. It is seldom indeed that a House of Commons refuses leave to a Prime Minister to

introduce a cabinet measure, and perhaps a fortnight's agitation will alter the aspect of the whole question.

The next question of interest, which has claimed the notice of both houses of parliament, is that of the occupation of Oregon. The night previously to the sailing of the *Caledonia* for America—the same night, too, be it observed, fixed for the passing of the army estimates—a scene was got up, no doubt by pre-arrangement, which serves to illustrate the mode in which the English public are gulled. Lord Clarendon in the House of Lords, and Lord John Russell in the House of Commons, respectively rise from their places with great solemnity, and call the attention of the government to that passage in the inaugural address of President Polk which has reference to the territory of Oregon. In well-studied speeches they make out the claim of Great Britain to that distant region, and conclude by moving for papers. A cabinet minister in each house rises to reply—intimates his desire for peace—asserts that we have rights founded on incontestable grounds—and declares that if those rights be invaded we are resolved and prepared to maintain them. This is uttered amidst the loudest cheers of both houses. The echo of those cheers, of course, and of that threat, was intended to be heard upon the other side of the Atlantic. But the moral of the trick is designed for the people of this country. In the intoxication produced by the ministers' declaration on the subject, the army estimates were put forward, and in less than one hour, with the concurrence even of Mr Williams and Mr Hume, they were passed without the smallest examination. When both the great political parties have virtually coalesced, how easy a thing it is for the aristocracy to put their hands deep into the pockets of John Bull.

Other matters we must dismiss in a few sentences. Upon the two motions which have been brought forward and defeated, on Post office espionage, as nothing new has been advanced, so we have no further remark to make, save that Peel's "dirty boy," with his usual ill luck, has got himself into a deeper mess than ever. On Lord Ashley's Calico Print Works bill, as amended by government, we shall have occasion to speak hereafter, as also upon the Lord Advocate's Poor Law bill for Scotland. The abolition of the auction duties, on Monday, brought out another beautiful illustration of the disinterested zeal of the landlord interest; when their opposition to the proposal of government was staved off by appealing to their fears of a reduction of the duties on the importation of butter and cheese. Sir J. Easthope in the House of Commons, and Lord Brougham in the House of Lords, submitted a case of "justices' justice," in the shape of imprisonment with hard labour, for the non-payment of poor's rate and costs. We may, perhaps, have a word to say upon this subject next week. Lord Denman, too, presented a petition from a prisoner who has already suffered three years' incarceration on account of his conscientious objection to take an oath. The case of this gentleman is a disgrace to any civilised government, and, we will hope, needed only to be brought to light in order to immediate settlement.

The returns of the revenue for the year and quarter ending April 5th, 1845, have been published. The table will be found elsewhere. Notwithstanding the great temporary diminution of customs' revenue, occasioned by the changes which have been pending since the opening of parliament, and which amount, during the last quarter, to £201,941, there is still an increase on the year of £718,602. There is also a considerable increase under the head of excise, amounting on the year to £344,784—an increase in this department is always regarded as the surest indication of improvement in the condition of the people. Under the head of post-office we are pleased to observe a gratifying increase of no less than £57,000 upon the year. The total increase on the year, deducting the decrease, is £1,410,726; the increase on the quarter is £572,165.

We have nothing further to notice calling for any extended comment. Mr Wallace, the indefatigable and consistent member for Greenock, has retired from parliament on account of ill-health. He will, we are sure, carry with him the regrets of all true friends of freedom, and we hope his late constituents will worthily supply his place. Another Indian mail has arrived; and, with the exception of increasing the probability of an invasion of the Punjab, contains no intelligence of interest. A civil war has broken out in Switzerland, which, before it is quelled, will, we fear, endanger the present relations of the great European powers, or possibly lead to the partitioning of the country.

THE MAYNOOTH DEBATE.

SIR ROBERT PEEL appears to have resolved upon running the gauntlet with the public feeling of the country. Upon various grounds, and through such media of expression as they yet retain, the middle classes of Great Britain have recorded their

strong dissent from that portion of the policy of government which proposes to educate the Roman catholic priesthood of Ireland, at the state expense. The prime minister, however, looks the rising storm in the face. Flanked by the whigs, and, with individual exceptions, the free-traders and radicals, he advances with determined and rapid strides towards his object. Never, perhaps, did man deliberately propose to strangle freedom, amid such shouts of approval from freedom's professed friends and guardians. And treachery in this, as in former instances, puts on the cloak of charity—plumes itself upon its superiority to theological narrow-mindedness—and takes credit to itself for voluntarily offering up a temporary popularity on the high altar of a kingdom's welfare.

One would imagine, from the tone of the debate in the House of Commons on Thursday night, that a boon of inestimable worth were about to be conferred on the Irish people. What is it? Wherein consists its political value? for the religious advantages expected to accrue from it have not, hitherto, been pointed out. Suppose the measure to be successful in its operation, what is the precise kind of success which it is avowedly framed to produce? To lift the priest out of that sphere in which his political sympathies usually harmonise with those of his flock—to attach him to government, that his voice may never more be raised against its oppressions—to convert him into an officer of moral police, for the suppression, if possible, of free opinion—to bring to the aid of an aristocracy, whose selfish misdeeds have already beggared Ireland, and whose supremacy in consequence begins to totter in that island, such spiritual influence as they find sufficiently powerful to control the popular mind—to make religion do for statesmen that which gunpowder has failed to accomplish—in short, to get the mind and conscience of the people within the reach of civil rulers, and to mould them into tame servility by means of priestly interposition—this is what Sir Robert Peel proposes to effect for Ireland by his endowment of Maynooth college, and in this truly patriotic effort he is aided by some of the loudest advocates of popular rights who have a seat in the Commons' House of parliament!

The talk is of conciliation—a good thing, truly—but were it not better to remove at once the main ground of quarrel? Is there a man connected with the liberal party still unconvinced that the irritation of the Irish mind is produced and kept up by the maintenance of the protestant ecclesiastical establishment in that country? And yet, throughout the debate, no one counselled its withdrawal. The original injustice perpetrated upon the Roman catholic body by the forcible transference of their property to another church was glanced at, and the education of the priesthood at Maynooth, spoken of, by high authorities, as an act partaking of the nature of "restitution." The phrase may be a happy one for St Stephen's chapel—but, beyond those walls, its real meaning will be canvassed. What, it will be asked, are our legislators about to give back? What portion of ecclesiastical property are they about to resign? Not a single doot. But they seek to tax the people of England to the extent of upwards of £27,000 annually, in order to smooth down the exasperation excited by the perpetuation of the injustice which their forefathers committed, and the fruits of which they are themselves enjoying—and they call it "restitution." The last robbery is to make good the first—the spermaceti is to render the blister tolerable—and the principles and feelings of Englishmen are to be outraged, in order that those of Irishmen may be lacerated with impunity. "Conciliation," these men call it, forsooth, and "restitution!" When will British common-sense force into their dull minds the true political signification of these terms?

For ourselves, we must needs confess, that a careful perusal of Thursday evening's debate, with all the indignation it stirred up in our minds, awakened in us some emotions of hope and even joy. At length we see the establishment principle shifted to its true basis—that of political expediency. What a clean sweep will this single fact make of that legion of plausible but hypocritical pretences by which the grand imposture has, until now, been shored up! The solemn duty of the state to furnish pure religious instruction to its subjects—the responsibility of a *Christian* legislature in regard to the spiritual well-being of the people—the sole right of "our venerable church" to national support—the obligation of rulers to bear testimony in favour of truth—and numberless topics of this hue and texture, designed to impress the consciences of the unwary, and to enlist the feelings of the devout, in favour of establishments, have been damaged and spoilt by the projected measure of Sir Robert Peel, and by the arguments put forward to sustain it, beyond the possibility of repair. Parliament is teaching all classes that lesson which we have earnestly, but almost vainly, laboured to impress upon them, that, in allying itself with the church, the state contemplates *political* purposes exclusively, and cares not a straw for the advancement of religion. We now learn

that the House of Commons is not a fitting place for theological discussions—that it is no part of the business of legislators to inquire what is truth—that it is far from necessary that statesmen should believe the creed which they establish—that, personally, they may repudiate it as spiritually impure and dangerous—but that, nevertheless, when policy demands it at their hands, they must sink their individual preferences, and govern men by turning their religion to account. When the country thoroughly comprehends this lesson, now being so assiduously taught in parliament, the beginning of the end will have come. The inquiry will soon be started, whether some cheaper and less mischievous method of ruling the empire cannot be devised—whether the vast property, which is now supposed to be required by spiritual ends, may not be more suitably employed than in smoothing the way for aristocratic government—and whether the endowment of no church by the state is not preferable to the endowment of differing and conflicting ones?

The debate and the division on Thursday night will probably do good in another direction. The fact will now strike every thinking mind, and will especially tell upon dissenters with a force hitherto unfelt, that our present representative system is based on principles which do not, and cannot, secure any approximation to sympathy between the House of Commons and the country. Feeling in the outer world, however intense, produces no corresponding vibration in the inner one. Views, however clear, which go to the roots of "vested interests," and however loudly expressed, seldom find their way into the precincts of parliament. The great body of nonconformists possessed no organ of utterance on Thursday last—no one, save Mr Duncombe, opened his mouth to proclaim their principles. The commonalty of Ireland, and, for that matter, of England too, could find but one man to denounce the wrong sought to be perpetrated by this measure upon the unprotected millions. Surely, with such a vivid illustration before them of the essential vice of the present system, the middle classes of the empire will be helped forward to the only natural conclusion—that there is no guarantee for the progress of liberty, whether civil or religious, but in the reconstruction of the Commons' House of parliament upon the basis of equitable principles.

Then, again, and it shall be our closing observation for this week, we find some solace in the assurance that the whigs can never more be misunderstood. Through their leader, Lord John Russell, they have, at length, made their position thoroughly intelligible. We record his words—and we ask every honest nonconformist to "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest:"—

"I am not now going to argue the question whether, with respect to this particular question, the House should or should not adopt the motion of which the hon. member for Sheffield has given notice; but this I say, that the arguments which are so sound, and, as I think, so incontrovertible, to induce this House to found an endowment for the education of the Roman catholic priesthood, will prove upon another occasion as sound and as incontrovertible with respect to an endowment for the maintenance of that priesthood [loud cheers]. For my own part, preferring most strongly, and more and more by reflection, a religious establishment to that which is called the voluntary principle [hear, hear], I am anxious to see the spiritual and religious instruction of the great majority of the people of Ireland endowed and maintained by a provision furnished by the state" [cheers].

THE OREGON TERRITORY—IMPOLICY OF WAR.

It is matter of deep regret to see the language which is held about the Oregon Territory, and the honour of the nation as involved in maintaining our claim to it.

It is not for our advantage, as a people, to obtain dominion over it. We are insulated, and at too great a distance to people it and maintain it.

The people who settle in it, must be independent; they must become a nation that they may do good to the world.

An independent people only can bring forth to the world its resources and instrumentalities for good. We should, if we had it, keep it as a colony, and check its growth and onward course: all our colonies are kept in that state—they are made subordinate that patronage may supply to our nobility the vitality that could otherwise strengthen and diffuse its life and fruitfulness in its own and fitting atmosphere. A colony to us, as a people, is a sucker, not a healthy supply—it is a dependant, to be sustained from our strength, and quarreled about with our and its neighbours—a drain upon our national purse when young, demanding an outlay for protection proportioned to its distance, and its neighbourhood to rival nations. It is a mere warren for patronage when it grows in strength; and, in the nature of things, as soon as it arrives at maturity, bursts the swaddling incumbrances of the mother country, and requests she will be good enough to mind her own affairs and leave it to itself. We were unable, when we had the command of the ocean, and our population could be made mad for Church and King, to continue ourselves masters of the American

colonists; and now, as a nation, they will have all the advantages in the next war, if our rulers are mad enough to excite it. We shall have all the disadvantages of the revolutionary war, and many more, to bear up against. The Americans have many advantages which they did not then possess—we, many disadvantages under which we did not then labour. We shall have the same distance to convey troops and stores, and a better navy on their part to intercept and annoy them. We had then a united, uninformed people, who were ignorant of political economy—who needed only a hireling, like poor Dibdin and others, to write warlike songs about "Ben Blocks" and "Ben Buntings," "Jolly Sailors," and "Gold Galose," "Britons never shall be slaves," &c.; but now our rulers have to do with a thoughtful population who, below the middle classes, are not contented, and who know that they are the victims of glory—that their lives are sacrificed for that which they take to be only misery in feathers and worsted shoulder-knots, recommended to them by the cat-o'-nine-tails. We had, in 1775, the power of subsidising German princes to lend us Hessians, and other hireling blood-shedders. Those petty princes would sell their serf to the work of blood against a colony: the Germans, Prussians, and Belgians will not do so now against a nation and a people with whom they have commercial relations, and to whom our folly will open the opportunity of extending them, and who will, as our rivals, secretly encourage and assist them by their commerce, if they do not openly join them.

The world has been revolutionised since 1783; and our representatives talked, the other night, as though they had forgotten, or wished to forget it; but of what use is their keeping it out of sight, unless the Americans were ignorant of it?

We have Ireland not well affected, and she is one-third of our physical force; but doubtless Sir Robert, by mounting their priesthood on our shoulders, giving us both Sindbad and his mother to carry, thinks he has quieted them, choked off O'Connell, and satisfied the English by requiring them to carry double, because he has taken the duty off *divi divi*, and allowed butter to come in when it has been tarred and turned into grease, that the people may not eat it. We will not here enter into this hallucination, it would lead to too wide a departure from our present point—the impolicy, not to say wickedness, of war with America, for a territory which we could not manage if we had it.

We have a national debt six times the amount of that which our glorious rulers had incurred for us before the commencement of the American revolutionary war. It was one hundred and twenty-eight millions in 1775—it is eight hundred millions now; and that people have now an organised government, are free from national debt, and only need such a war to induce them to submit to the taxation necessary to raise largely the munitions of war; and, whatever danger they may be threatened with from our raising their black population against them, they will see will be more than outbalanced by their invasion and incitement of the Canadians. They will discern the absolute necessity for a seaboard: they see the value of it now. Our seamen, managed by severity and flogging, will not fight with the spirit of old; for the spirit has been changed, and cannot be aroused in the same degree by such means, and the means have not been changed. Temptations will be held out to our soldiers to desert, and the balance of evil will be largely against us. If successful, what should we gain? A country we could not people with the rapidity necessary to maintain it; whilst the Americans have an advancing population fitted to the climate, and ready of choice, to struggle with the difficulties of settlers. If we would give freedom to commerce, that country would become a good customer as a nation, but as colonists they would be an almost inexhaustible drain upon our resources. A war on the subject would involve a waste of blood and of life, to win a millstone; besides that, such a collision would lead to blockades, and blockades produce a European war.

THE PET CORPORATION.

THE corporation of London, in seeking to compel the wholesale dealers to take up their freedom, have sought to net fish which can scream. The wholesale traders have escaped the net so long, that they have thought to time have confirmed the obligation upon the retailers, and sanctified the exemption of themselves. Be it so: if they are not bound by law to pay, they ought not to be made to pay—nor, on the other hand, ought the citizens who have from time to time contributed the funds that now form the corporate income, to be charged with the obligation of protecting the property of the rich traders by paying for the administration of justice, and for the maintenance of the prisons and prisoners, nor of paying one-fourth of the police rate out of their purse, on account of those who do not contribute to it.

The sum required by the city is £8 6s. 8d., upon which government impose a stamp duty of £3; for this sum the residents escape a county

rate. The question now raised has been caused by the bigoted Tories in the Common Council; they refused all needful change, and compelled the reformers to seek a change which they knew would lead to the result now brought about. The reformers contended that if the Tories would not join in adapting the institutions to the times, and reducing still lower the fine for admission, and if the law would not reach the wholesale, it ought not to be enforced against the retail dealer. The liberals foresaw that the resistance of the wholesale dealers would compel their opponents to raise the question, or resort to a county rate, and enable them, by the new men it would bring into the court, to carry a bill to simplify the franchise, enlarge the constituency, abridge the length of elections and scrutinies, and clear away many worn-out usages.

The franchise is a mass of confusion. The members of parliament are elected by the liverymen and householders under the Reform act; the lord mayor, the sheriffs, the chamberlain, and other officers, by the liverymen; the aldermen and common councilmen by the inhabitant householders, being freemen, paying scot and bearing lot—that is to say, paying certain rates and bearing certain offices. The elections for aldermen and common councilmen are made in local divisions called wards—the common councilmen are annually elected; but although the aldermen are elected by the inhabitants of one ward only, they are elected for life. The lord mayor must be chosen from among the aldermen by the whole body of liverymen—so that men chosen in the first instance by a few only, are forced upon the livery at large, who have been frequently compelled to nominate out of a few rotten oranges, none of whom they would have selected if they could have chosen from the whole of the citizens. This would not be, if the choice of one to be mayor were left to the whole constituency; but a custom or bye-law exists, by which the livery are compelled to select two of these aldermen, from whom the court of aldermen themselves select one. This doubles the difficulty of securing a good man; for, as the court of aldermen never choose an alderman who has been lord mayor, and always take the senior of the two nominated by the livery, that body are practically limited to about eight aldermen, who have not served the office, and must then find two unexceptionable, or the court of aldermen will take the senior without reference to any other qualification.

The difficulties under which the livery have laboured to obtain a lord mayor of their own choice, when the public feeling has been strong, was illustrated in the case of Sir John Key, when the Reform bill was before parliament. There was a strong desire then to return him a second time, and it was necessary to return with him some alderman who was not only his senior, but who had served the office before; because there is a custom to fine a lord mayor elect £1000, if, not having previously served the office, he declines it. If, then, the livery had chosen an alderman who had not served the office, the aldermen would have chosen him in preference to Sir John Key, because to choose one man a second time postpones for a year all those below the chair. Sir John was returned with Alderman Thorpe. The aldermen chose Thorpe, and he, by previous arrangement, refused to serve. The aldermen could not fine him, but a new election was imposed upon the livery; the livery then returned Key and Alderman Thompson, who had previously served, but who, it was known, desired that the livery should have their own choice. The aldermen nevertheless chose Thompson; a third election was the consequence, when Alderman Kelly, who had not served the office, and was therefore liable to a fine of £1000, nevertheless intimated his readiness to pay the fine, if it should become necessary, rather than the livery should be defeated. Key and Kelly were then returned after a contest with Farebrother, but the aldermen then submitted and chose Key. To have chosen Kelly would have postponed other aldermen who were senior to him. All this, however, showed the great impediment the rule can throw in the way of the popular body, when the few choose to put this stumbling-block in the way of the electors.

Again, an alderman once chosen, being chosen for life, however low he may fall in the estimation of his fellow-citizens, there is no power to remove him; and it is well known that the citizens have been obliged to bargain with men who have fallen from their station, or shown their unfitness, to induce them to withdraw from the corporation. Such, however, is the tenacity with which many of the old Tory citizens stick to the ancient and worn-out rules, that one of the present sheriffs, when in the Common Council, lost his election one year, because he had proposed and supported the reduction of the admission fine: he will now, in all probability, be able, with others, to carry a larger measure of reform than he then thought it probable he could carry; though the wholesale dealers, who are the immediate cause of the movement, will, so far at least as the pocket is concerned, probably be considerable losers; and the

citizens at large will, it is hoped, be advantaged by a well-considered measure of rational reform.

The wholesale dealers were for centuries indifferent to the exaction of £25, whilst, as they thought, it could be enforced upon the retail dealers only; but as soon as they were applied to for £8 6s. 8d. only, they were indignant at the injustice. Just so it was with the retail dealers when the people—the unrepresented masses—carried the Reform bill, which gave the middle classes the franchise; their first and loudest clamour was for the repeal of the window tax, not for a repeal of the taxes that pressed immediately on the labouring classes. The Tories in the Common Council will be in a fix: they cannot resort to a county rate, without being ultimately obliged to give those who pay it the franchise; on the other hand, if they consent to reduce the fine to a nominal sum, they will extend the franchise in that way to all the residents.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Agricultural Interest, to relieve from taxation, 38.
Banking (Scotland), against alteration of system, 2.
Calico Print Works bill, against, 10.
County Courts, for establishment of, 6.
Education (Ireland), for removing restrictions on, 47.
Field Gardens bill, for, 5.
Game Laws, for alteration of, 1.
Hill Coolies, against importation of, 4.
Insolvent Debtors act, for amendment of, 1.
Jewish Disabilities, for removal of, 1.
Lord's Day, for the better observance of, 12.
Malt Tax, for repeal of, 2.
Maynooth College, against grant to, 97.
Museums of Art bill, for, 23.
Parochial Settlements, for alteration of, 11.
Physic and Surgery bill, for alteration of, 12.
Public Houses, for diminishing the number of, 67.
Punishment of Death, for abolition of, 1.
Schoolmasters (Scotland), for ameliorating their condition, 13.
St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses, against union of, 5.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Poor Law Amendment (Scotland) bill.
Glass (Excise Duties) bill.
Maynooth College bill.
Mutiny bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Smoke Prohibition bill.
Calico Print Works bill.
Museums of Art bill.
Glass (Excise Duty) bill.
Mutiny bill.
Marine Mutiny bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Excise acts.
Supply—100,011 men for the land forces; £2,630,499, charge of the land forces; £155,099, staff officers; £89,412, public departments; £13,200, Royal Military Asylum; £26,168, volunteer corps; £56,593, unprovided services of former years; £14,148, rewards for distinguished services; £73,000, army pay of general officers; £62,000, full pay for retired officers; £341,000, half pay and military allowances; £52,252, foreign half pay; £141,848, widows' pensions; £105,000, compassionate list; £920,553, in-pensioners of Chelsea and Kilmaham hospitals, and out-pensioners of Chelsea hospital; £38,500, superannuation allowances, military public departments; £1,289,543, wages to seamen and marines.
Public Museums, &c., bill.
Maynooth College acts.
Glass (Excise Duty) bill.
Customs (Import Duties) bill.

DEBATES.

Wednesday, April 2nd.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CALICO PRINT WORKS.

The second reading of Lord Ashley's Calico Print Works bill having been moved,

Sir JAMES GRAHAM stated that he had instituted an inquiry into the subject, through the agency of the factory inspectors, and that the government had come to a decision on it. They acquiesced in the general principle of interference, believing that it was right to introduce some regulation of the labour of women and children employed in print works. But they objected to the details of the bill, considering that, as they stood, they would seriously interfere with the freedom, both of capital and labour. In print works the labour was not continuous; there were seasonal periods in the business, technically termed "pushes" and "slacks," involving intervals of extreme activity and much leisure; and, therefore, they could not regulate print works as they did factories. But limiting the operation of the bill strictly to print works, and excluding bleach works and calendering, he thought that they might legislate to exclude the labour of children under eight years of age, and also prohibit night work, in the case of females, if night were defined as being between nine in the evening and five in the morning. Great difficulty attended the effort to provide legislatively for the education of young persons employed in print works. Taking into consideration the peculiar nature of the employment, he did not think that they could do more than legislatively appropriate one hundred days in the year on which it would be obligatory to send the young persons to school for three or four hours in each day. With these changes, he could consent to the second reading of the bill.

Lord ASHLEY felt that he was sacrificing a considerable portion of the objects he sought, in assenting to the amendments proposed by the government. But believing that gradual and cautious movements were more effectual than sudden and sweeping ones, especially in securing the important point of the co-operation of the capitalists and employers in alleviating the condition of the workpeople, he was willing to attain his objects by compromise. If he gave up bleach works and calendering, and lost the advantage of protection to young persons under

thirteen years of age, he gained, on the other hand, the exclusion of children under eight years of age, and the abolition of night work in the case of women and children. He therefore assented to the amendments proposed by the government.

A discussion followed, in which Mr MILNER GIBSON, Mr HUME, and Mr ESCOTT, declared themselves opposed to the principle of interference sanctioned by the bill, and Mr COWPER, Mr BORTHWICK, Mr T. DUNCOMBE, and Mr BROTHERTON, spoke in its favour, the two latter intimating their opinion that Lord Ashley had exercised a wise discretion in assenting to the amendments proposed by the government. The bill was then read a second time.

ILLEGAL IMPRISONMENT.

Sir JOHN EASTHOPE called the attention of the House to the two petitions he had presented in the earlier portion of the evening. Two individuals, one of them a widow woman, had been committed to Leicester gaol under very peculiar circumstances. Warrants had been issued against each of them for arrears of poor rates, amounting altogether to not more than five shillings. A benevolent individual paid the amount, to save them from prison; but subsequently they were summoned for twenty shillings costs in each case, but were not allowed to appear before the magistrates in answer to the summons, the officers having ascertained that they had not brought any money with them. The result was, that they were sent to Leicester gaol for a month's hard labour, and were lying there at this moment. On hearing of these facts, he had written to the magistrates, and he grieved to say that the answer returned substantially admitted the facts. He wished to ask Sir James Graham if he had caused inquiries to be made on the subject, and if the result of his inquiry led him to recommend the release of the parties?

Sir J. GRAHAM admitted that the facts mentioned in these petitions had created a great sensation in the town of Leicester. A copy of the petitions had been sent to the Home office, and, as soon as the facts mentioned in them came to his knowledge, he had called on the magistrates to explain them. He had received the explanation of those gentlemen, and he was compelled to say that it did not appear to him to be satisfactory. Indeed, he thought that their proceedings were illegal, and could not be justified; and, having formed that opinion, he should advise her Majesty to liberate these prisoners without delay. He would have given this advice at once, had he known the facts of the case earlier. He was sorry that he had not; for the parties were committed for a month on the 5th of March, and that period was now almost expired.

A short but unimportant discussion then took place on the subject.

NEW POOR LAW FOR SCOTLAND.

The LORD ADVOCATE, in moving for leave to bring in a bill for the amendment and better administration of the laws relating to the relief of the poor in Scotland, entered into a lengthened statement of the reasons and circumstances which rendered it necessary. The subject, which had previously attracted the attention of the General Assembly, had been minutely investigated by a commission appointed in 1843, and which, after an inquiry of nearly a year, had made its report in 1844. That report showed that the growth of population, and the change in habits and condition, had left a large mass of misery in towns, and some rural districts unprovided for, calling for a legislative interference in order to provide a remedy. Explaining in detail the system of poor relief in Scotland, he stated that the existing law gave the power of raising, by assessment, the amount requisite for the "needful sustentation" of the poor; but the defects of the law respecting the administration of the poor fund rendered it inadequate for the necessities of those who required it. To remedy those defects, and organise a system of effective poor law relief, he proposed a plan by which parishes are to be suitably divided and defined, and each parish is to have an overseer of the poor, acting under the local authorities, while the whole of the local authorities are to be controlled by a central board, sitting in Edinburgh (similar to the poor law commission in London), to be composed of nine members, three of whom are to be salaried servants of the Crown, the other six to be *ex officio*, and to be composed of the Solicitor-general, the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the sheriffs of the shires of Perth, Ross, and Renfrew. This board is to be armed with powers which will bring about uniformity in the administration of the poor fund; enable its administrators to attend to the claims of the increasing casual poor; provide for the care of pauper lunatics; and amend the action of the law of settlement.

Lord DALMEY, Mr E. ELLICE, jun., Mr HUME, and Mr HAWES, expressed their approbation of the conduct of the government in grappling with a difficult and important subject; but reserved their opinion on the details of the bill until it was before the House.

After a few additional remarks from Mr FRENCH and Sir JAMES GRAHAM, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Thursday, April 3rd.

MAYNOOTH GRANT.

The SPEAKER said that those members who had petitions against the additional grant to Maynooth had better present them at once.

At this announcement, almost every member on the ministerial side of the House rose and pointed towards the table with a roll of petitions which he held in his hand. This simultaneous movement elicited roars of laughter. There were upwards of 200

members on the ministerial benches, and of these certainly not twenty kept their seats on the announcement of the Speaker. On the opposition side of the House, on which there were about 180 members, not more than twenty had petitions to present on the subject. Amongst those who presented petitions were Sir T. Acland and Lord Palmerston.

The House having been moved into a committee of the whole House on the acts relating to the college of Maynooth,

Sir ROBERT PEEL stated the plans of the government relating to this institution. In reference to the presentation of a great number of petitions against any increased grant to the college, he remarked that he had given timely notice of his intention to consider the state of Maynooth, in a friendly spirit; and, therefore, he was not unprepared for the demonstration of adverse feeling which had been made that day. He could not but foresee such opposition from many who entertain strong religious feelings and conscientious scruples. But ministers had thought it their duty to take care that those difficulties should not be aggravated by a just allegation that they had concealed their intentions and taken the country by surprise. He now had to fulfil the pledge implied, by proposing an improvement in the system of Maynooth, and an increased grant. He should say nothing at present of one portion of the question—the improvement of the system of academical education in Ireland—which would be brought before the House at a future period; his observations now being strictly limited to the subject of Maynooth. It appeared to ministers that there were three courses which they might pursue—to continue the present system and grant without alteration; to discontinue the vote altogether, and repudiate all connexion with Maynooth; or liberally to adopt, improve, and extend the institution provided for the education of the Roman catholic priesthood. These several courses Sir ROBERT successively discussed. With respect to the first—the continuance of the present system unaltered—he declared, on the part of government, that of all courses it would be the most pregnant with mischief. Government profess to make provision for a national system—for the education of those who are to give spiritual instruction and religious consolation to many millions of the people of Ireland: they just give enough, by voting annually £9,000, to discourage and paralyse voluntary contributions for that purpose.

Remove the grant altogether, and you will find on the part of the people of Ireland, I have no doubt, a disposition to make the pecuniary sacrifice, and to provide some, perhaps an imperfect endowment, by voluntary contributions, for the education of their priesthood. But the grant of £9,000 a year, the public undertaking, on the part of the government, to endow an institution and to provide instruction, has the effect of discouraging the contributions of others, and yet that sum is ineffectual for its purpose.

If it is a violation of principle to provide instruction for the Roman catholic priesthood, they are guilty of that violation of principle now. It is not a mere annual grant. The grant is recognised by two acts of the Irish legislature, and one passed by the united parliament in 1808, providing for the establishment of the college; the Lord Chancellor of Ireland and the highest judicial authorities are appointed visitors: parliament has repealed the statute of Mortmain in favour of that college; has enabled the trustees to hold land to the amount of £1000 a year, and to provide a chapel for the rites of the Roman catholic church. The grant of £9,000, however, is so limited in amount, that of the ten professors, the most highly endowed has a salary of not more than £122 a year: yet it is expected to obtain the services of men of eminence and integrity. There are in the college 440 scholars. Of these about 130 are "pensioners," who pay a certain sum on admission; and 250 are "free" students. The average sum allotted to each of those free students—for his commons, his dress, the furniture of the rooms—is £23 a year; and out of that sum of £23 for each of the 250 students the repairs and other incidental expenses of the college must be provided. Nothing can be more desolate than the appearance of the building, which partakes of the character rather of a deserted barrack than of a literary institution. It is impossible to assign a room to each student; in many cases several students are placed in one room, and even in some instances several in one bed. A representation on this subject was made by nearly the whole of the Roman catholic prelates to the lord-lieutenant, Lord Heytesbury: the bishops state, that so urgent have been the necessities of the establishment, that the President has frequently been obliged to send home the pupils during the vacation, for the paltry but indispensable saving of two months' provisions; an absence injurious to college-discipline. Yet, in spite of the utmost parsimony and retrenchment, a debt of £4600 has been contracted. The increasing distress among the middle-classes has caused a decrease in the number of "pensioners" (who pay), which has not only curtailed the revenue of the college, but has created the necessity of proportionate increase in the number of free scholarships: yet the supply of priests from the establishment, for the service of the church, is so inadequate, that it is often necessary to call home students for the performance of clerical duties before they have completed the ordinary theological course, which is already very short. This statement is signed by twenty-two Roman catholic prelates.

Now, I ask whether I am not right in stating to the House, that you can take no course which is not preferable to a continuance of this state of things; that is, to a continued violation of principle—if it be a violation of

principle—in undertaking to instruct a priesthood from whose doctrines you dissent, and yet at the same time making only this niggardly and inadequate provision for the maintenance of those for whose education you have made yourselves responsible? Is it wise—when this subject is brought under our consideration and we must decide, would it be a proper course to say to the Roman Catholics of Ireland, "We are bound, it is true, by an inconvenient obligation, contracted by our ancestors, and that obligation we will respect; in a surly spirit, we will continue to give you the £9,000 a year; but there shall be no improvement in your buildings, there shall be no advance in the salaries of your professors; the acts of parliament shall continue; our implied sanction and encouragement, so far as statute law is concerned, shall remain: but we tell you we vote the £9,000 feeling that our conscience is violated, and we give it you only because we have to fulfil a contract into which others entered, and from which we cannot escape?" I say, any course is preferable to this.

He came to the second alternative.

Shall we avow that our conscientious scruples are so violated in the maintenance of this system, that we will discontinue the connexion with Maynooth? that the vote shall, after some temporary arrangements, be discontinued, and the burden of educating the priesthood shall be thrown upon the people of Ireland ["Hear, hear," from one of the back ministerial benches]? I infer that there are some who think that a desirable course ["Hear, hear," from the same quarter]. Before you adopt this course [loud cheers, especially from the opposition benches]—I ask the House to listen to the statement I am about to make, of the reasons which prevent me from counseling it [hear, hear]. When did your connexion with the institution arise—under whose authority, and how long has it continued? The connexion began in 1795, when George the Third was king, Mr Pitt the minister, and the Duke of Portland (afterwards Chancellor of Oxford University), Home Secretary. In that year—a critical period—the Lord-lieutenant, Earl Fitzwilliam, adjuring the Irish parliament by their attachment to religion, learning, and civilisation, recommended to their consideration the improvement of education. The intent of those general terms was pointed out by Mr Grattan; who stated, that "on this subject [education] it is intended that a plan should be submitted for colleges for the education of the catholic clergy, who are now excluded from the Continent." Earl Fitzwilliam's immediate successor as lord-lieutenant, the Marquis Camden, laid the first stone of Maynooth college. In the course of that year, 1795, the Irish parliament passed the first act relating to Maynooth; and that act was passed by the Irish Lords and Commons without a division, and without one dissentient voice. The prelates of the protestant church were present in the House of Lords; the parliament was exclusively of a protestant character; and yet, at that period, at the instance of the executive government, that parliament—without a division, without a dissentient voice—consented to this supposed violation of principle, voted the sum that was then thought requisite for the maintenance of the institution, and clothed the institution with a parliamentary sanction. In 1800, before the Union, another act on the subject was passed by the Irish parliament. On the Union, the Irish parliament found this college established and supported by parliamentary grants; and those grants were continued by the imperial parliament. For fifty years, then, this very year 1845, this vote has been continued—a vote for the support of Maynooth. After this long connexion, was the House now to say that they had been all along violating a conscientious scruple, and that the connexion must be dissolved?

Recollect, when it was formed the Roman Catholics were labouring under disabilities; that did not constitute, in the view of the Irish parliament, an objection to originating this grant. Those disabilities have been now entirely removed; the Irish Roman Catholics stand upon the same footing with ourselves in respect to civil privileges; shall we now, in opposition to the acts of our predecessors, say to them, "That favour which was granted to you under the administration of Mr Pitt, must now be withheld from you on account of a conscientious scruple?" Sir, I should deprecate the effect of such a step. It is not the amount of the pecuniary grant; what I deprecate is the animus it would indicate. We should never be able to convince those from whom the grant was withheld, that those scruples which were not felt by George the Third, by Mr Pitt, by the exclusively protestant legislature of their own country, are now felt to such a degree by us that we must abandon the connexion which was thus formed.

If parliament were to declare that, holding a faith which they believed to be more pure, they were prevented from giving assistance in propagating another faith, what a lesson they would inculcate!

Why, if we make that declaration, what a lesson shall we inculcate upon the landlords of Ireland! Take the case of a protestant landlord who has a large estate, from which he derives a large income, he being an absentee perhaps: that estate is cultivated by Roman Catholic labourers; shall he be taught by the example of this House to say, it is inconsistent with his religious scruples that he should provide for the religious instruction of those who are so connected with him in the relationship of landlord and tenant? Such a man, his tenantry being all Roman Catholics, and he deriving his wealth from their labour, should rather say, "I should act against the will of the supreme Judge of all if I refused my assistance in order that you should enjoy the consolations of religion. I feel a conviction that I shall act more in accordance with the principles of the faith which I profess, by seeing that you have those consolations. I differ from you on religious doctrines; but still my wish is, that in the hour of need you should receive spiritual instruction and consolation from the hands of those from whom you can derive them. I will consent, therefore, and I will give you a piece of ground for a chapel; I will contribute towards its construction; nay, more, I will subscribe something for the maintenance of that minister who is to inculcate doctrines which you believe, but which I cannot agree to." If I were in such a position, should I violate any precept of the holy religion which I profess, were I to act in this liberal spirit?

Are the city companies, who are most liberal to the communities on their estates, to be told that they cannot continue their aid to a religious profession from which they dissent, without violating their own religious principles. If such a vote is illegal, in what position, too, will parliament stand when it comes to the vote for presbyterians?

In what position will it stand towards the colonies—towards the Catholics of Malta, Gibraltar, Canada, Mauritius, and the West Indies? [A member—"And the East Indies!"] In all these cases, we have found it impossible to act on the principle of disclaiming altogether connexion with and support of those from whose religious opinions we dissent. How shall we stand with regard to the Roman Catholics in Ireland? Shall we repeal the act which provides Roman Catholic chaplains for prisons? By a recent enactment you have enabled the grand jury to appoint a Roman Catholic chaplain. You have compelled the grand jury to make the appointment upon requisition made to them. You have appointed the grand jury to make provision for the services of that chaplain from the public pocket. You have authorised the appointment of Roman Catholic chaplains for workhouses. Why authorise the violation of principle, if violation it be? Why, a noble and better feeling interposed, and relaxed the principle; and the feeling of the government and of the country was, that there ought to be provided for dying men in their last moments, when they are about to be ushered into the presence of their Creator, perhaps guilty beings suffering for their crimes, that religious consolation they needed from the only spiritual guide from whom they could receive it.

There remains but one other course, and that is the course which we are prepared to take [cheers]. Prepared!—yes, I will avow it, that we are prepared, in a liberal sense and confiding spirit, to improve that institution, and to elevate the tone of education there [renewed cheers]. Will you not take that course? I think you will agree with me, that such is the course which should be taken; that if we are seriously to consider this institution, we ought to consider it with a view to extensive improvement. By improvement I mean, improvement of means only, not an interference with the course of education, poisoning all the good that you might derive from liberality. I mean, really, that we should treat that institution in a generous spirit, in the hope that we shall be met in a spirit corresponding with ours, and that we shall reap the fruits of this improvement of that educational establishment. Indeed, I hope I may say that I am confident of the good feeling of the Roman Catholics on this point. I have taken that course which I think I ought to take, to effect and make that provision which should really be a sufficient supply for the wants of the Irish Roman Catholic church in respect to the education of its ministers. A mere addition of some £3,000 or £4,000 would really be worse than nothing. I exclude the idea of a small increase like that from my consideration altogether. If the religious objection to a grant is overcome, I cannot think that such would be the extent of the addition we would wish to make.

He explained the proposal which, on the part of government, he was instructed to make. The trustees of Maynooth college can purchase land to the extent of £1,000 a year; but they cannot receive it on any other terms than for the lives of the trustees: he proposes to incorporate the trustees, by the title of "the Trustees of Maynooth College," and to enable them to hold real property to the extent of £3,000 per annum, should members of the Roman Catholic faith be desirous to contribute to the college so incorporated:—

The stipend of each individual professor does not now exceed £122 per annum. Instead of defining exactly what shall be the amount paid to each professor, we propose to allot to the trustees of Maynooth a certain sum, which shall be placed at their discretion for the payment of salaries. That sum will admit of a payment of £600 or £700 per annum to the president of the college; of £260 or £270 to the professors of theology; and of £220 or £230 to the other professors. We propose, therefore, that a sum not exceeding £6,000 shall be allotted to the trustees for making provision for the officers of the institution. There are at present about 430 students in the college, divided into three classes—the twenty Dunboyne students, the three senior classes, and the four junior classes. We propose to allot to each of the Dunboyne students the sum of £40 per annum: we propose to make provision on the whole for 500 free students; that there shall be 250 students in the four junior classes, and 250 in the three senior classes, these being divinity students. We propose that for the maintenance of each student, to cover the expense of his commons, attendance, and other charges consequent upon academical education, a sum shall be placed at the disposal of the trustees, calculated on an average of £28 per annum for each student. We propose that to each of the students in the three senior classes the sum of £20 per annum for their own personal expenses shall be allowed separately. The total sum required for the students will be £14,560; the total sum for the establishment, £26,360. We propose that the college shall be made, in appearance and in fact, worthy of an institution of the kind. We propose that proper provision shall be made for the accommodation of the president and professors; and we propose to limit the amount of money for putting the college into repair, and to take a vote, of course not an annual one, of £30,000 ["Hear, hear," and indications of surprise]. We intend that a sum of money, so sanctioned by parliament, shall be applied for the purposes I have described. We do not propose provision for more than 500 students: there shall be no power of increasing the number to 600 or 700 by reducing the individual allowances. We wish to put the establishment on a liberal footing, that the reminiscences of Maynooth may no longer be revolting. It is, therefore, that I propose to limit the number of students to 500. We propose, also, that the Board of Works shall undertake the repairs of the college, as they do of the other public buildings, in order that they may be conducted with the greatest economy. We do not propose to make provision in the act for the annual expenses of the repairs, but that they shall be the subject of an annual vote, and be included in the annual estimates for the Board of Works, as in other cases.

Instead of the present *ex officio* visitors—the Lord Chancellor and the judges—it is proposed that the Crown shall appoint five visitors to exercise the

same visitatorial powers as the present visitors; but instead of visiting once in three years, to do so once a year, and as often as the Lord Lieutenant may direct. These visitors would not interfere with any matters relating to the doctrine and discipline of the church of Rome; but for those subjects three more visitors would be elected by the other five as at present, to be members of the Roman Catholic church. The three elected visitors now are—the Earl of Fingall, Dr Crolly (archbishop of Armagh), and Dr Murray (archbishop of Dublin). The measure had not been the subject of stipulation with the great authorities of the Roman Catholic church; but ministers intimated their intention to those dignitaries: there is every reason to believe that they are satisfied and grateful for the measure, and that they will strongly recommend its acceptance to the great body of Roman Catholics.

We do not think that there is any violation of conscientious scruples involved in our proposition. We believe that it is perfectly compatible to hold steadfast the profession of our faith without wavering, and at the same time to improve the education and to elevate the character of those who—do what you will—pass this measure or refuse it—must be the spiritual guides and religious instructors of millions of your fellow countrymen.

Sir ROBERT PEEL concluded by moving for leave to bring in a bill to amend the acts relating to the college of Maynooth, and sat down amidst cheering, chiefly from the opposition side of the House.

Sir ROBERT INGLIS at once rose to meet the motion by a direct negative. He remarked the number of petitions against the measure presented on both sides of the House, and the fact that nearly all the cheers which greeted the minister's speech came from the opposition. Sir Robert Peel said that he had not taken the House by surprise; but could any one have anticipated such a measure as that now proposed? The grant hitherto made to Maynooth was annual, and did not at all pledge the House to its continuance. In one year there was an increase, in one a decrease, and in one (1799) there was no grant. Sir Arthur Wellesley stated, in 1808, that it was not intended to maintain Maynooth out of the public purse; Mr Perceval said that the Catholics meant to defray the cost themselves; and that was confirmed by the memorial of the Roman Catholic archbishop, Dr Troy, in 1794, which showed that the Catholics wished to be permitted to establish the institution with their own funds. The act establishing the college, the 35th Geo. III. (Irish statutes), authorised the trustees to receive subscriptions and donations from Roman Catholics, and in fact was permissive in its nature. The only pledge bearing upon the subject was the resolution of the British House of Commons in 1800, that a sum not less than that granted by the Irish parliament on an average of six years, for the encouragement of agriculture and pious uses, should be paid for twenty years after the union; a period now expired. As to the colonies in which there are Roman Catholics, there the church is maintained, right or wrong, under the obligation of specific treaties. The original Maynooth act enabled the Roman Catholics to do what they desired; and he, for one, would not for an instant desire to prevent them from receiving the subscriptions and donations of their co-religionists. His complaint was, that they were endowing the church of Rome almost in the same proportion as they were withdrawing all support from the protestant institutions of the country. Mr O'Connell has said that the grant ought to be £70,000; so, if the government think that they will propitiate him, they must fail, as in their other anticipations. He wished that Sir Robert Peel had enlightened the House much sooner:—

He was most anxious not to say anything that would be disrespectful to his right honourable friend at the head of the government; but he could not but feel that the greater part of the speech he had made on that occasion might, after all, have been made at a much earlier period of his political life. He hoped his right honourable friend would excuse the observation, but it appeared to him that there was nothing in the facts brought forward by his right honourable friend on that occasion that was not equally patent to observation and as stringent in its conclusions on any man's conscience in the year 1813, when the right honourable baronet was chief secretary for Ireland, as it was at the present moment. He was desirous of making these observations in a manner as little offensive as possible; but he could not also help wishing that, in June, 1840, the right honourable baronet had spoken a little more distinctly.

Sir ROBERT INGLIS concluded by declaring that, although the meteor flag has been shattered and torn, the protestant colours still remain at the mast-head; and he would fight as unflinchingly for them and under them as when in brighter days they waved unbent and untorn over our empire.

Several conservative members followed up the arguments advanced by Sir Robert Inglis, much in the same strain. Mr PLUMPTRE said that the parties opposed to the measure were not men of light minds, but some of the best in the country—men who, with their Bible before them, prayed to heaven for guidance to a right judgment. They were men who held the Roman Catholic religion to be idolatrous—that was the ground they took, and which he joined with them in taking. Colonel SIBTHORP was surprised, he would say disgusted, that such a measure should originate with a protestant minister of the Crown—one who had been educated at Oxford, and who, he was ashamed to add, had been the representative of that university in parliament.

However, he rejoiced to think that the university was now much more efficiently represented, by Sir Robert Inglis; a man far more deserving of such an honour than the right honourable baronet—who had in his statement that night shown himself more regardless of, and more indifferent to, the interests of religion than any individual who ever held his high office.

Amongst the other opponents of the measure in the conservative ranks were Mr Gregory, Mr Law (recorder of London), who opposed the proposition of the government, because he regarded it as an important step in that movement which, at no remote period, would end in the endowment of a Roman catholic establishment, and the degradation of the established church; Mr C. Bruce, and Mr Grogan.

Lord FRANCIS EGERTON, Lord SANDON, and Mr S. WORTLEY, spoke in favour of the measure from the ministerial benches. Lord SANDON regarded the grant as a debt due to the Roman catholics:—

He could not forget those circumstances—he could not forget that the protestant church had appropriated all the ecclesiastical revenues and properties of every description in Ireland, leaving the people still under the religious guidance of their Roman catholic pastors, and making no provision whatever for their churches or subsistence [hear, hear]. He could not, therefore, look on the question as a simple one of endowment, but he regarded it more in the light of a restitution ["Hear," and cheers].

He also advocated the endowment of the Roman catholic clergy:—

He did not want to be urged by the mere term "compact" to do an act of justice. He had on every occasion voted in favour of catholic emancipation, and he had also voted with his noble friend the member for South Lancashire (Lord F. Egerton) in favour of an endowment for the Roman catholic clergy of Ireland, and he would vote for that proposal again if it were brought before the House ["Hear," and cheers]. However much he might respect the motives of those who opposed such a measure, he could not agree in their opinions or partake their views on that question [hear]. Amidst the heterogeneous mass of opinions on religious subjects which the House exhibited, each man had a right to act according to the dictates of his own conscience [hear]. It was impossible for him to look at the conquered colonies under the dominion of England without reflecting upon the contrast which they presented in each having been suffered to retain the religious belief which was predominant when they were first acquired.

Many liberal members cordially supported the motion. Captain B. OSBORNE ridiculed the argument that the House, which was "of no religious persuasion," should sit as a judge of truth or error in religious doctrine. He, however, thought the catholics might have done much *themselves* towards raising the necessary funds:—

The hon. baronet (Sir R. Peel) having alluded to the probability of the Roman catholic gentry contributing towards the furtherance of the object, he could not but express his own regret that they had not already contributed to a greater extent [hear, hear]. It appeared that they subscribed the sum of £10,000 a year to the society at Lyons for the propagation of the faith. Might he be permitted to suggest to them that it would be much wiser and more charitable to confine that sum to the education of their own people [hear, hear]? He would take the money for the grant out of the revenues of the protestant established church in Ireland. Mr WARD, who highly complimented Sir Robert Peel on his moral courage, would divide in favour of the bill; though at a subsequent stage he should be obliged to put on record his conviction that it is not from the general taxation of the country that the increased grant should be made. Mr RICHARD MONTESQUIEU BELLEW thanked Sir Robert Peel, not merely for the measure itself, but for the language in which he conveyed the liberal and just principles on which it was founded:—"It was impossible that such a measure should not have a good effect on the people of Ireland. The two people were approximating more and more every day; he hoped it was reserved for the right honourable baronet to unite the two countries by a greater degree of affection and regard than had hitherto existed." Other liberal Irish members participated in this view. Mr SHEIL looked forward to a great progressive improvement of the Roman catholic priesthood.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL supported the motion. He did not rest on the compact. If it proved mischievous, or against the religious feelings of the community, he did not see why the compact should restrain the House from putting an end to any allowance. He could understand those who refuse the grant altogether. But if you consent to the grant at all, then to say that you will not let the student having £22 receive £28, in order that his astronomy may be properly taught, his diet and comforts better, is no real ground of religious scruple. He regarded the measure as a step towards a large and comprehensive scheme for the future payment of the Roman catholic clergy; and that was with him a consideration, not of resistance, but of concurrence:—

The arguments, which are so sound, and, as I think, so incontrovertible, to induce this House to found an endowment for the education of the Roman catholic priesthood, will prove upon another occasion as sound and as incontrovertible with respect to an endowment for the maintenance of that priesthood [loud cheers]. For my own part, preferring most strongly, and more and more by reflection, a religious establishment to that which is called the voluntary principle, I am anxious to see the spiritual and religious instruction of the great majority of the people of Ireland endowed and maintained by a provision furnished by the state.

He regretted that the feeling between the Irish and English people is not so good as could be wished. Had such a spirit as that now displayed been manifested in 1825, when Lord Francis Egerton made a motion involving payment of the catholic clergy, the difficulties of Ireland would have been removed—"at this moment you would no more be talking about agitation in Ireland than you would have been talking about agitation in Yorkshire or Middlesex." But he should be happy if government were now beginning a different course; if, instead of "concession having reached its utmost limits," there was now an endeavour to make a new beginning in a series of measures by which they might hope to unite the two countries in an enduring bond.

Mr DUNCOMBE was the *only* member who opposed the grant, on the broad ground of opposition to all grants for the support of religious opinions.

It was impossible (said the hon. member) not to see that the vote was intended as part of a scheme for the endowment of another church establishment in Ireland, to which the great majority of the people in this country did not subscribe. The measure had been called a restitution; he thought it an aggravated plunder; it might have been called a restitution had it been a measure for suppressing the established church in Ireland, and appropriating its funds to general education. Ireland was exempted from the income tax, and he could not allow the government to put its hands still deeper into the pockets of the people for the amount it now proposed to take. He denied that it was a mere question of degree; it was a question of principle. They found this vote an annual one, and they had no more right to make it permanent than they had to do the same with the mutiny act or the supplies. On the voluntary principle he should give his vote against the motion, to which, in justice to a large portion of his constituents, he could not give his assent ["divide, divide"].

The House then divided, when the motion was carried by 216 to 114; majority for ministers, 102.

Friday, April 4th.

THE OREGON TERRITORY.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL called the attention of government to the state of the negotiations between this country and the United States on the subject of the Oregon territory. He said, that under ordinary circumstances he should never have interposed while negotiations proceeded; but in appealing to popular action, the President of the United States has adopted a course which is entirely new, and which, if not met by something unusual on our part, threatens to overbear all the ordinary intercourse between the executive departments of nations. Mr Polk has departed from the standing policy of American statesmen, down to Mr Webster, which discountenanced territorial aggrandisement. Lord JOHN RUSSELL examined at some length the rival claims of England and the United States to the disputed territory; referring to Mr Falconer's publication, and insisting on the superior claim which England can show on the basis both of discovery and treaty. Mr Polk has recommended the citizens of the Union, with their wives and children, to go and occupy that territory; should the present unsettled state of affairs continue—should the citizens of the United States, acting upon the suggestion of their President, endeavour to disturb British subjects in the enjoyment of their rights—a state of relations must be produced dangerous to the peace of the two countries. The territory may be more or less valuable; but the possession of the communication between the country west of the Rocky mountains, the East Indies, China, and South America, cannot be matter of indifference; nor can the character of England, in yielding to a blustering announcement. Lord JOHN felt that he could do what it might be impossible for a responsible minister of the Crown to do, in stating to the House and to the people of this country what our rights are.

Sir ROBERT PEEL responded to Lord John's advance; acknowledging its propriety. If it was a departure from the usual course, the noble Lord was not responsible for any consequences that might arise, after the appeals that had been made to other authorities than those usually recognised. Sir ROBERT explained the present state of the matter. He recapitulated the negotiations on the subject, terminating in the convention of 1827, for the joint occupation; which was to continue for ten years, and then to remain in force until either country should give a year's notice of its discontinuance. Just before retiring from office, Mr Tyler sent a message to the Senate, declining to produce papers on the subject, because the negotiation was still pending; adding, "that considerable progress has been made in the discussion, which has been carried on in a very amicable spirit between the two governments; and that there is reason to hope that it may be terminated, and the negotiation be brought to a close, within a short period." That was the last document officially communicated to this government. Since Mr Polk delivered his inaugural address, on the 4th of March, no diplomatic communications had taken place between the British minister and the new American Cabinet. Sir ROBERT could confirm Mr Tyler's statement as to the amicable spirit of the negotiations up to that moment, but not as to their progress towards a termination. They have no doubt been renewed. Should the proposal of this country be rejected, and no counter-proposal likely to lead to an amicable adjustment be made by the United States, the papers would be laid before parliament. He trusted that that would not be necessary; though he could not repress his regret, that while the negotiations were pending, the President, contrary to all usage, should refer to any other contingency than the satisfactory termination of these differences. He deeply regretted not only the reference itself, but the tone and temper in which that reference was made. Requesting all members to waive their individual right, and abstain from discussion on the subject, Sir ROBERT made this declaration:—

I feel it my imperative duty, on the part of her Majesty's government, to state, in language the most temperate but the most decided, that we consider we have rights in respect of the territory of Oregon, which are clear and unquestionable; that we trust still to effect an amicable adjustment of these claims; that we desire to effect that adjustment; but having exhausted every effort to effect that arrangement, if our rights are invaded, we are resolved, and are prepared, to maintain them [immense cheering from both sides of the House].

Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Lord PALMERSTON expressed their entire concurrence.

MR DUNCOMBE'S LETTERS.

Mr WAKLEY moved for a copy of any warrant or warrants sent to the Postmaster-general by any secretary of state directing the detaining or opening of any letter or letters addressed to or written by Mr Duncombe, a member of that House. The hon. member, in bringing forward his motion, took a review of the former debates on the subject, and contended that, if his motion were not granted, a deep-rooted and extensive impression would be created throughout the country that the government was acting in a very discreditable and tyrannical spirit to his hon. colleague.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM, in resisting the motion, made use of the same topics and arguments which he had employed on former occasions.

A rambling discussion took place, which turned chiefly upon Sir James Graham's calumnious attack on Mr Mazzini. Dr BOWRING said that he had known Mr Mazzini intimately and confidentially for many a long year, and was therefore acquainted with his moral habits and conduct. The contemplation of such a crime as assassination could never have entered into a mind so pure and honourable as his. Mr HUME, Mr MILNES, and Captain OSBORNE also condemned the conduct of the Home Secretary.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM said that if he could be satisfied that he had done injustice to Mr Mazzini, he should be most happy to render to him the fullest reparation; but, until he was so satisfied, truth required that he should not retract his assertions.

The House then divided, when the motion was negatived by a majority of 73 over 22 votes.

ARMY ESTIMATES.

Mr WILLIAMS said that, in consequence of what had transpired that evening, he would not move an amendment, which he had intended to move, for the reduction of our military establishments [loud cheers]. He would, therefore, withdraw his notice of motion, that—

"It is the opinion of this House that the life guards ought to be reduced to one regiment not exceeding 400 men, and that the foot guards should be placed on the same footing as infantry regiments of the line; and that the existing practice of giving officers of the foot guards higher rank, and both officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, higher pay than those of regiments of the line, as well as exempting them from colonial duty, is a distinction injurious to the public service, and ought therefore to be abolished."

Before he withdrew it, he availed himself of the opportunity to deliver a speech of some length on the defective and expensive system adopted in the equipment and internal arrangements of the British army.

After a few remarks from Mr HUME to the same effect, the House resolved itself into a committee of supply.

In the committee the army estimates underwent some consideration, but were at last passed without a division. Several grants in the navy estimates were also agreed to.

Monday, April 7th.

THE AUCTION DUTIES.

The House having resolved itself into committee on the auction duties, with a view to their repeal,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated the general reasons for the abolition of these duties, and adduced specific examples of their inequality and hardship in operation. Those reasons were—the inequality and partial operation of the present law, the fact of its levying on the subject a larger tax than that which went into the exchequer, and the general combination among all classes to evade it. The commissioners of excise inquiry had reported that of all taxes selected for repeal the auction duties ought to be the first. He then explained the reasons why he imposed a duty of £15 on the license of each auctioneer instead of a duty of £5 on each of the licenses, which auctioneers were now obliged to take out to sell different species of excisable goods. Under the £15 license the auctioneer would be entitled to sell every kind of excisable goods, whereas he now had to pay for six licenses, or £30, to be entitled to do so. He then proposed a resolution for the abolition of the auction duties.

Mr G. BANKES said he was not called upon to show that no benefit would be derived from the repeal of these auction duties. It would be enough for him to show that greater and more efficient relief would be administered to the country by retaining those duties as they stood at present, and by extending the remission of taxation which it was now proposed to make to those who were suffering already, and were likely to suffer more, from the heavy imposts levied upon them. There were new burdens likely to press on the landed interests to the full amount of the duties which government now proposed to remit; and those new burdens would be imposed by two measures already brought into parliament this session by the secretary of state for the home department. One of those measures was the bill for regulating the fees paid to the clerks of assize and to the clerks of justices of the peace, and another was the Parochial Settlement bill. The first measure would increase the county rates, and the latter the poor rates, to a very considerable amount. Besides these two measures, which were already before the House, it was said that government intended to bring in a bill for the purpose of building lunatic asylums in every county, and the expense of erecting such institutions would of course fall on the agricultural interest. He complained that the pressure of the county rates, which was already very severe on the lower class of occupiers of land, would be greatly aggravated by the measures to which he had just referred; and he, therefore, recommended the government to consider whether they could not give the landed interest the benefit of this remission of taxation by relieving them from that undue share of the county rate which they

would soon be called upon to pay. The amount of the auction duties was £300,000; and though he was of opinion that the landed interest were entitled to a larger amount of relief than that sum, yet he would be satisfied to have that relief rather than nothing.

Mr MILNER GIBSON examined the peculiar claims of the landed interest to a further exemption from taxation:—

If the people of England were to bring in their bill against the landed interest, it would completely astound them. Nobody, without examining, could have the slightest idea of the amount of exemption from taxation that interest enjoyed then, and had enjoyed for a long period [hear, hear]. A great deal was said about the national debt, and of the public taxes raised to pay the interest of it. But the landlords never told them that they themselves received the advantage of a great portion of the money which was expended in the creation of that debt [hear, hear]. A large part of that debt was incurred in the purchase of corn, of timber, and of the necessities of life. All these articles were purchased at high prices, owing to the war. Those high prices brought extraordinary profits into the pockets of the landed proprietors; and the landed interest, in the shape of immense profits, received a large portion of that money, the expenditure of which had caused what was called the national debt [hear, hear]. Mr Deacon Hume, whose opinions were so often quoted as authority in that house, instead of speaking of the landowners as a distressed body, said that the possession of an estate of £5,000 a year ought to imply, as a matter of course, the possession of £50,000 consols [hear, hear]. But what had been the course pursued by landed proprietors? Their increased incomes had been made the means of obtaining further mortgages [hear, hear]. Instead of dealing with income as a sort of capital, they had chosen to live up to it; and, having mortgaged their property, they now called upon Parliament to persevere in a system of policy which would keep up the price of corn, and enable them to pay the interest of the large sums which they had raised through war prices [hear, hear]. The bill of charges, if brought against the landed interest, would be perfectly awful to contemplate. It was of all rash proceedings the most rash for hon. gentlemen to come to that house to ask on behalf of landed proprietors exemptions from taxation. Why, he contended that they paid no taxes at all (ironical cheers from the ministerial benches). None of the local burdens appeared in the shape of taxes. The land was reserved in the first instance subject to such impositions; and they could have no possible claim whatever on the community at large for compensation. They had corn laws and monopolies of various kinds, and they were sheltered round with a variety of privileges. The church, for instance, was theirs. They had a great portion of the patronage of the church; they had all the privileges of the court; they had all the advantages of returning ministers, and keeping them in power; they had the whole diplomatic service at their disposal. So that their broad acres not only grew wheat, and barley, and oats, but places, and pensions, and sinecures [laughter]. The possession of these acres was the great qualification for favour with the administration: that was the certificate by which they obtained place and pensions. He asked them to consider whether the day was not approaching when the mercantile community in this country would ask to be placed on a level with them in the social scale; whether they could now tax the credulity of the people by persuading them that they bore more than their fair share of the burdens of the state?

Mr S. O'BRIEN wished Mr Gibson the same success in his present crusade against the court and the church that he had already obtained in his crusade against the corn laws, and no more. He had come down to the House with the intention of resisting Mr Bankes's amendment, and his intention had not been altered by the speech which he had delivered that evening. It appeared to him that, if Mr Bankes were to carry his proposition, he would do nothing more than throw £300,000 on the floor of the House, to be scrambled for by every interest in it. In such a scramble, he was afraid the agricultural interest would not be the most successful.

Mr F. BARING said that the real question was, whether the auction duties constituted the most suitable tax to be taken off at the present time. He did not think so, and would, therefore, vote against the proposition of the government, in order that the surplus might be applied to other remissions more beneficial to the bulk of the community. He particularly instanced the soap duties.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM, adverting to some remarks of Mr Bankes, stated that, if he found the opinion of those members of the House most competent to form an opinion was generally adverse to the bill for altering the law of settlement, he would not press it. As to the county rates, they might be reduced in amount by economy, especially in the expenses of gaols, and by a more effective auditing of the county accounts. He concluded by going over the arguments in favour of the repeal of the auction duties.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, although strongly opposed to the auction duty, would vote against the resolution, not on the grounds suggested by Mr Bankes, but in order that the surplus might be applied to the reduction of other taxes, especially the duties on butter and cheese.

Sir R. PEEL made one of his characteristic appeals to the agricultural members:—

He hoped hon. gentlemen on that (the ministerial) side of the House would recollect what was the object of the noble lord. Those hon. gentlemen would gain nothing from the noble lord; for if the noble lord and the hon. member for Dorsetshire (Mr G. Bankes) succeeded, by their united efforts to-night, in preventing the remission of the auction duty, he (Sir R. Peel) would be disposed to agree with the noble lord, that it was advisable to retain the surplus revenue of £300,000 [laughter]. Those who were interested in the continuance of protection to butter and cheese, must also recollect the course the noble lord had announced his intention to pursue, in case of his failure to-night. The noble lord distinctly stated that, if his object was defeated, he would be precluded from voting for any reduction of the duties on cheese and butter.

He agreed with Lord John Russell that, if the

present resolution were negatived, it might be as well to keep the £300,000 as surplus revenue.

After a few words from Colonel SIBTHORP, Mr COBDEN forcibly exposed Sir R. Peel's stratagem for procuring the support of the agricultural interest:—

The appeal of the right honourable gentleman to the agricultural members is certainly anything but flattering. He says, "If you vote for the member for Dorsetshire there will be a surplus of £300,000, which the noble member for London warns you may be applied to the remission of the duties on butter and cheese. Remember, you are interested in preserving these duties." Did we ever say anything so insulting to you as that? ["Hear, hear," and a laugh.] I have sometimes said at Covent Garden that there should be written over this house, "Dealers in corn and cattle, and no competition allowed with the shop over the water." But I never said you were cheesemongers and dealers in butter [renewed laughter]. Is it not most degrading to you to say that the wretched serfs who earn 8s. or 9s. a week cannot purchase butter or cheese at a somewhat cheaper rate, because you are interested in keeping up the prices of these necessities?

Sir T. ACLAND complained with great warmth of the misrepresentation which Mr Cobden had made of the speech of Sir R. Peel. No such lesson, as that which Mr Cobden had stated, had been given by Sir R. Peel, either to him or to any other member of the agricultural class. Sir R. Peel had spoken jocularly, and Mr Cobden thought fit to understand him seriously.

Mr LABOUCHERE understood Sir R. Peel to have urged this argument seriously, and not jocularly, upon the agricultural interest:—"Beware how you vote against the reduction of the auction duties, for if your opposition is successful, you will have to vote on the remission of the duties on cheese and butter." He thought that this was a very grave argument, especially when addressed to gentlemen of the landed interest.

The committee then divided; when there appeared, for the resolution, 167; against it, 30: majority, 137. The resolution was accordingly carried.

On the resolution fixing the duty on the auctioneer's license at £15, Mr HUME proposed to reduce the amount of the duty to £7 10s. A discussion of some length took place on this amendment; but the government at last consented to a compromise, and, on the motion of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, "ten pounds" was inserted in the resolution instead of "fifteen pounds," and the resolution, so amended, was agreed to unanimously. The CHAIRMAN then reported progress.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PREVENTION OF SMOKE.—Mr Mackinnon's Smoke Prohibition bill was read a second time on Wednesday, and referred to a select committee; it being understood, that if a similar law incorporated in the government measure for the improvement of large towns were introduced, Mr Mackinnon would not proceed with his bill.

PROTECTION FOR WORKS OF ART.—On Wednesday, the Public Museums bill went through committee *pro forma*, in order to material amendments proposed by Sir JAMES GRAHAM, for extending its provisions to all works of art and science, in private as well as public collections, or, in short, wherever found.

GREENOCK ELECTION.—On Thursday, a new writ was ordered to be issued for Greenock, to elect a representative in the place of Robert Wallace, Esq., who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

THE MAYNOOTH GRANT.—Mr HINDLEY reserved the petitions he had to present against the grant until Friday evening, when he produced about seventy. The honourable gentleman was proceeding to state to the House the circumstances under which the petitions were brought forward by him on that day, when he was called to order. The SPEAKER said it was against the rules of the House for any honourable member to address the House when presenting petitions. Mr HINDLEY said the petitions which he had to present were from all parts of the country, and were to the effect that the petitioners were anxious that each sect should be permitted to support religion according to their own views, and that they thought it wrong for the state, after leaving the petitioners to support their own religious opinions, to devote the public money to the maintenance of the religious views of particular persuasions.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.—On the same evening, Mr T. DUNCOMBE presented a petition from inhabitants of Woodstock, complaining that they were deprived of the exercise of their franchise as electors by the unconstitutional interference of the Duke of Marlborough.

IMPORT DUTIES (INDIA).—Mr HUME, on Monday night, moved for a copy of the draft act of the legislative council in Calcutta, for altering the import duties, published in the government *Gazette* at Calcutta, February 8, 1845; and took the opportunity of asking the noble lord opposite (Lord Jocelyn) whether that act had originated with the Governor-general of India, or whether that gallant officer, in putting it forth, had only acted according to orders? He stated that the measure referred to emanated from this country, and was sanctioned by the Board of Control; and the gallant officer, the governor-general of India, had therefore been only carrying out the orders he had received. It was intended to make good the deficient revenue of India.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, April 3.

The House of Lords re-assembled on Thursday after the Easter recess.

Lord ASHBURTON entered into a defence of the treaty which he had concluded with the United States, and which, in the House of Commons, on Monday night, had been attacked by Lord Palmer-

ston and Lord John Russell, contradicting certain of the statements of the latter noble lord.

The remaining business was of a routine character.

Friday, April 4.

Lord BROUGHAM brought forward the case discussed in the House of Commons on a previous evening, of the individuals imprisoned in Leicester gaol for non-payment of costs of summons for poor rates, commenting strongly on the illegality of the proceedings. The LORD CHANCELLOR promised to institute an inquiry, the result of which would determine him as to retaining the committing magistrates in the commission. The Duke of RICHMOND inquired if there were no means of redress to the parties, for otherwise the law was in a most defective state. The LORD CHANCELLOR replied, that the magistrates were open to an action for damages if they had acted illegally. The prisoners had been discharged immediately on the circumstances being brought before the Home Secretary.

THE OREGON TERRITORY.

The Earl of CLARENDON performed the same office as that undertaken in the Commons by Lord John Russell; and the Earl of ABERDEEN made a statement and declaration similar to those given by his colleague; adding some information as to the actual state of the matter:—

No communication has taken place between her Majesty's ministers and the government of the United States, since the resignation of the late President and his administration. We therefore stand precisely in the position in which we stood at the time of the answer of the late President, with the exception of such a character as the relations may have received from the speech pronounced upon his inauguration by the new President. With respect to our rights, our position is precisely such as it has been for the last eighteen years; the treaty of 1827 renewing, or rather continuing, that of 1818. Either government might terminate the treaty of 1827 by giving a year's notice for the purpose; which, however, the President has not said he means to give. But if he does mean it, he cannot effect his purpose without a vote of the Congress authorising him to do so; the Congress will not meet, unless specially called together, until the month of December; and even then, the treaty cannot expire without a year's notice being given, from the time at which the President receives the necessary authority to give such notice. Your Lordships will see, therefore, that in point of time the matter is not so urgent as might be supposed.

He concluded in the following terms:—
At the same time there are limits to forbearance, and that without attaching too much weight to the question of honour. Fortunately for this country, I think we need not be very sensitive upon that point [hear]. It was not for us God knows—

'To seek the bubble reputation
Even at the cannon's mouth.'

or anywhere else [hear, hear]. Our power, our character, our position, are such as to enable us to look with indifference on what other countries might think they ought to feel sensitively [much cheering]. Our honour is a substantial property, which we shall never neglect, and we adopt what course we please for the preservation of it, and fearlessly leave the judgment to posterity [cheers]. In what I have said, your lordships will have perceived an earnest of the spirit in which, at least, if I am to conduct them, the negotiations will proceed. I cannot bring myself to think it possible that, at this day, a civilised government will remain deaf to the counsel of justice and reason. I hope, therefore, and fully believe, that we shall hereafter have the happiness of saying that this important question has been brought to a satisfactory, because an amicable, conclusion [cheers]. Should it be otherwise, I can only say that we possess rights which, in our opinion, are clear and unquestionable; and, by the blessing of God, and with your support, those rights we are fully prepared to maintain [loud cheers from all sides].

The Earl of RIFON moved the third reading of the Property and Income Tax bill. On this a debate arose, embracing not merely the question of the policy or expediency of the tax itself, but the financial plans of the government in their reductions of customs and excise duties. The speakers were the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, Lord ASHBURTON, Lord STANLEY, Lord MONTEAGLE, the Duke of RICHMOND, Lord BROUGHAM, the Marquis of NORMANBY, and the Earl of RADNOR. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

Monday, April 7th.

Petitions against the grant to Maynooth were presented by Lords KENYON and BROUGHAM, both of whom expressed their opposition to the prayer of the petitioners.

RAILWAY SPECULATION.—Lord BROUGHAM, in moving for a variety of returns respecting railways and railway projects, took occasion to remark upon the present frenzy of speculation in these investments, and to recommend to ministers the example of Lord Liverpool, who had, in 1825, given a solemn warning to the public of the dangerous nature of the speculations then so popular. The urgency for some such warning was now much greater, for, instead of £17,000,000, which were then said to be involved, £130,000,000 would be required to complete even a few of the proposed railways; and he called upon the legislature no longer to make itself a party to these extravagant speculations, but to refuse the extraordinary powers which were demanded for them, and of the abuse of which he gave several instances. In many cases the taste for this species of gambling had been already ruinous; and if it did not receive a check, he anticipated serious evil to the pecuniary and commercial interests of the country. Lord DALHOUSIE declined to enter into the general question of railway speculation, but mentioned several instances of the hardships to which the owners of property in the neighbourhood of railways were exposed, and of the effrontery of railway engineers. It would require, he believed, from £140,000,000 to £150,000,000 to complete all the proposed railways; but it was impossible to conceive that they would

all receive the sanction of the Legislature. Lord ASHBURTON coincided in all that had been said of the extent and the evils of railway speculation, and urged the necessity, as ordinary gambling had been suppressed, of remedying an evil with which every country club and every country town was infected. The enormous stimulus given to the iron manufacture would be followed by such a reaction, as probably to throw a large proportion of the operatives of the country into a state of great distress.

EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE.—The Marquis of NORMANBY gave notice, that after the decision of the Property tax bill which had been pronounced by that House, he should lay on the table a bill, the object of which would be to extend the elective franchise to every person who should pay the income tax, and to provide for giving him a vote in the borough or town where he should last have paid it. He would lay the bill on the table during the present session, and would be guided by circumstances as to taking any further steps. Lord BROUGHAM observed, that there could not be many unenfranchised. The Marquis of NORMANBY believed there were some thousands.

REFUSAL TO TAKE AN OATH.—Lord DENMAN presented a petition in reference to a former petition of a respectable individual who was imprisoned in the Queen's prison, because he could not conscientiously take an oath and swear to his balance sheet. In consequence of these conscientious scruples he had been imprisoned for three years. His noble friend on the woolsack had thought he might devise some scheme to meet this case, but perhaps the numerous occupations of his noble friend had prevented his so doing, and as he (Lord Denman) thought there was no difficulty in saying what ought to be done, he would himself present a measure. The petition he had now to present was from 100 persons who had witnessed the conduct of the party whilst in prison, and had no doubt that he was prevented by the scruples he stated; and they also stated, that as he was unable to take an oath, he had been unable to obtain the prison allowance, and had been almost destitute. It was a case which he recommended to their lordships' humanity, and he had no doubt they would fairly consider it.

SANATORY IMPROVEMENT.—The Duke of BUCKLEIGH, in answer to the Marquis of NORMANBY, stated that the measure of the government for improving the sanitary condition of towns would be brought forward in sufficient time to afford ample opportunity for its consideration. He saw no reason why its provisions should not be extended to Ireland and Scotland, as well as to England.

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.—The Marquis of NORMANBY, in moving for certain returns relating to the Irish constabulary, took occasion to contrast the principles of action which animated the Irish executive under the late and the present governments. He also eulogised the loyal feelings of the Irish people, who, he was assured, would receive her Majesty, if she should visit Ireland, with an enthusiasm never before experienced. Lord STANLEY considered that the accusation of conducting the government of Ireland on party principles and religious bigotry, was the more ungracious, coming at a time when the administration was risking a considerable amount of its accustomed support by proposing measures to which they believed the people of Ireland were entitled. He agreed to the motion, only extending the returns, so as to exhibit a larger and fairer view. With respect to her Majesty's reception in Ireland, he had no doubt, if the Queen visited that country, she would be received with the most enthusiastic loyalty. The Duke of WELLINGTON said a few words in explanation of the course he had taken when this subject was last before the House. The Marquis of NORMANBY then replied; and, after a short speech from Lord ST GERMAN, the motion was agreed to.

Religious Intelligence.

HULL.—The independent congregations in this town are making vigorous exertions to extinguish the heavy debts which the extension of chapel and school accommodation of late years has entailed upon them. We hear of one minister having relinquished the whole of his salary with this view; and of another congregation in which five members have offered £100 each towards an effort to pay off from £1,700 to £1,800.

CHARFORD CROSS, NEAR TOTNES, DEVON.—On Friday, March 21, the new dissenting chapel, lately built at Charford Cross, was opened for divine worship. Sermons were preached by Messrs Nicholson, Plymouth; Drew, Madras; and Jones, Plymouth. The devotional engagements were conducted by Messrs Tarbotton, Totnes; Wreyford, Buckfastleigh; Gubbins, Brent; Ellis, Ivybridge; Huxham, Totnes; Evans, Ashburton; Foster, Modbury; and Bowden, Woolston Green. Christian friends of various denominations came for many miles in every direction, to show their interest in the undertaking. The ground for the chapel was generously given by Mr Furneaux, of Charford; and Richard Peck, Esq., of Hazelwood house, has most liberally contributed to the erection. Other friends in the neighbourhood have assisted.

SOUTHEND.—At a social meeting, held last Friday, the friends of the congregational chapel at Southend made an effort to clear off a debt upon the chapel. As more than half the sum was promised by the friends present, and several sums have been since received, the attempt will, undoubtedly, be completely successful. A day school, on liberal principles, is much needed here; and, having got rid of the debt, a united effort is proposed for the establishment, if possible, of such a school.

CHAPEL DEBTS CLEARED OFF.—The anniversary sermons were preached in Square chapel, Halifax, on Sunday week: in the morning and evening by Mr Sherman, of Surrey chapel, London; and in the afternoon by Mr A. Ewing, resident minister. Collections were made after the services for the entire liquidation of the debt on the chapel, which was £503. The amount of the collections was £592. The congregation of the independent chapel, Pudsey, under the pastoral care of Mr Colefax, have freed themselves, by a strenuous effort, from the whole of the debt resting on their place of worship. The amount of debt was about £350, inclusive of interest becoming due. The subscriptions, which commenced on the 20th of November last, amounted to £304. After the sermons on Sunday week, and on Wednesday evening, by Mr B. Firth, Mr John Ely, and Mr G. B. McDonald, the collections amounted to £80, thus making in all £384.

BIRTHS.

April 3, at Amersham, Bucks, Mrs W. A. SALTER, of a daughter.
April 6, Mrs PETER BROAD, Tavistock street, Covent Garden, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

March 30, at St John's church, Paddington, Mr WILLIAM GEORGE WARD, fellow of Balliol college, Oxford, to FRANCES MARY, youngest daughter of the late John WINGFIELD, D.D., prebendary of Worcester.—The *Morning Herald* says it has heard a strange rumour, that Mr Ward was married first by a Romish priest, and afterwards by an English clergyman.
April 1, in the Independent chapel, Chesterfield, by Mr W. Blandy, Mr CHARLES SELLENS, Greasboro', to SARAH MELLOR, daughter of Mr Cornelius Crich, Walton.
April 2, at Witham, Essex, by the pastor, Mr R. Robinson, Mr S. S. ENGLAND, of Royston, to SARAH, widow of the late Charles JAMESON, Esq., of Denmark hill, and fourth daughter of Thomas Butler, Esq., of Witham.
April 3, in Union chapel, Islington, by the bride's father, Mr JOHN SUGDEN, B.A., missionary to Bangalore, to CATHERINE, eldest daughter of Mr Henry TOWNLEY.
April 3, at the independent chapel, High street, Ware, by Mr G. Pearce, Mr EDWARD MITCHELL, of London, to ANN, daughter of Mr John LOCKYER.
April 3, at Waltham, near Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire, Mr W. JARROLD, late of Northampton, son of the late Mr J. Jarrold, Wisbeach, Cambridgeshire, who is about to go as a missionary to China, to Miss SIMPSON, eldest daughter of Mrs Simpson, widow, of the former place.
April 3, at Albion chapel, Hull, by Mr N. Hall, B.A., Mr JOSEPH CARNLEY, West Melton, near Rotherham, to JANE, third daughter of Mr S. K. BIRCH, of the above place.
April 3, at Marshall street chapel, Holbeck, by Mr J. H. Morgan, Mr HIRAM FLOWS, mason, to Miss ELIZA HOLBECK, both of Holbeck.
April 4, at the independent chapel, Grantham, by Mr J. Barlett, Mr ISAAC LAWTON, to Miss MARY TURNER, both of Grantham.
April 5, at the independent chapel, Grantham, by Mr J. Barlett, Mr JOHN HANCOCK, to ELIZABETH HOLMES, both of Denton.

DEATHS.

March 16, at Leaze's terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne, very suddenly and greatly lamented, JOSEPH ARUNDALE, Esq., aged 49.
March 31, after a long and severe affliction, ANNE, wife of James DOWNING, draper, Cheltenham, aged 38.
April 2, at his seat, Silverton park, Devon, after a short illness, the EARL OF EGREMONT. The late earl was a staunch conservative. It is believed the title is now extinct.
April 3, Mr JOHN KEED, hat manufacturer, High street, Lynn, aged 63 years. The deceased was deacon of the baptist church upwards of 33 years—a consistent and conscientious protestant dissenter—a faithful and unflinching advocate of civil and religious liberty—a pious and devoted Christian, and the urbanity of his manners rendered him universally respected.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, April 5.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

FIELDING, WILLIAM, Taunton, Lancashire, hat plush manufacturer.

BIDDER, SAMUEL PARKER, Fleetwood-on-Wyre, Lancashire, slate dealer, April 23, May 16: solicitors, Messrs Bridger and Blake, London wall, London, and Mr Dodge, Liverpool.

COTTERELL, JAMES KNIGHT, Glastonbury, Somersetshire, April 23, May 16: solicitors, Messrs Nash and Rooke, Glastonbury.

CURRIE, JOHN, and SEIGNETTE, LOUIS ELISE, Mincing lane, City, merchants, April 17, May 16: solicitors, Messrs Treherne and White, Barge-yard chambers, Bucklersbury.

DAY, CHARLES, late of 1, Buckingham street, Fitzroy square, but now of 36, Acton street, chemist, April 16, May 16: solicitors, Messrs Pain and Hatherly, 83, Basinghall street.

DINGLEY, THOMAS, Strutton ground, Westminster, draper, April 11, May 12: solicitors, Messrs Deane and Co., St Swithin's lane, City.

GILES, WILLIAM, Brighton, Sussex, boarding-house keeper, April 16, May 16: solicitor, Mr Sanford, John street, Adelphi.

HARTSHORN, HENRY, Shrewsbury, plumber, April 14, May 15: solicitors, Mr Parker, New Boswell court, London, and Mr John Powell, Birmingham.

LAMPARD, JOHN, Stanhope street, Clare market, printer, April 16, May 13: solicitors, Messrs Vandermere and Co., Bush lane, Cannon street.

PAULTON, JOHN, High street, Portland town, mason, April 11, May 16: solicitor, Mr Letts, 8, Bartlett's buildings, Holborn.

SIMPSON, ALEXANDER HORATIO, Blackfriars road, Surrey, engineer, April 15, May 24: solicitor, Mr Michael, Red Lion square.

WARD, RICHARD GEORGE, and PERRY, GEORGE, Newgate street, and Gilbert street, Oxford street, meat salesmen, April 15, May 24: solicitor, Mr Charles Young, Warwick square, Newgate street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

M'CORKINDALE, DUNCAN, and Co., Glasgow, meachants, April 10, May 15.

M'NIVEN, DAVID, Glasgow, manufacturer, April 9, 30.

SWAN, DOUGLAS, bootmaker, Edinburgh, April 8, 29.

DIVIDENDS.

W. Robinson, Great St Helens, insurance broker; first div. of 11d., any Saturday—J. Le Grey, Jermyn street, St James's, tailor; second div. of 3d., any Saturday—J. Richards, Oxford street, livery stable-keeper, first div. of 3s., any Saturday.

Tuesday, April 8.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85—

The independent chapel, Riddings, Derbyshire.

The presbyterian meeting house, Dean row, Cheshire.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

BOWRING, EDWARD, Lawrence lane, Chapside, City, merchant.

BANKRUITS.

HOLLINGSWORTH, JOHN, Paddington street, Marylebone, butcher, April 18, May 20: solicitor, Mr James Goren, South Molton street.

KILFORD, THOMAS, Southampton, cabinet maker, April 15, May 13: solicitors, Mr Dolman, Clifford's inn; and Mr Wright, London street, Fenchurch street.

LAMBERT, JOHN, Portsmouth street, Lincoln's Inn fields, licensed victualler, April 17, May 20: solicitor, Mr C. M. King, St Mary Axe.

M'KNOTT, ELIZABETH, and GLASS, JAMES, Belvidere road, Lambeth, and Blackfriars road, Surrey, coal merchants, April 22, May 22: solicitors, Messrs Freeman and Co., Coleman street.

ROBINSON, EDWARD EDWARDS, Wolverhampton, grocer, April 28, May 15: solicitors, Messrs Capes and Stuart, Gray's inn, London; and Mr George Robinson, Wolverhampton.

SHEFFORD, JOHN, High street, Camberwell, hay merchant, April 15, May 31: solicitor, Mr C. M. King, St Mary Axe.

SMITH, EDWARD, 30, South Molton street, and 294, Oxford street, cheesemonger, April 18, May 23: solicitors, Messrs Pain and Hatherly, 83, Basinghall street, and 5, Great Marlborough street.

SMITH, JOHN, Barnoldswick, Yorkshire, cotton manufacturer, April 21, May 13: solicitors, Messrs Wiglesworth and Co., Gray's inn, London; Messrs Barr and Co., Leeds; and Messrs Hartley and Heath, Settle.

STUART, THOMAS STRUTT, jun., Liverpool, drysalter, April 11, May 13: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London; and Mr Green, Liverpool.

WRIGHT, FRANCIS, Earl's Colne, Essex, builder, April 18, May 20: solicitors, Mr Bell, Bedford row; and Mr Mayhew Coggeshall, Essex.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

KELTIE, WILLIAM HENRY, Glasgow, grocer, April 11, May 2.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

William Schofield, Oldham, Lancashire, machine maker, first and final div. of 3s. 5d., payable any Wednesday.—William Wood and Henry Port, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, screw manufacturers, div. of 6d. upon new proofs only; final div. of 7d. on the separate estate of William Wood; and div. of 4s. 6d. on the joint estate, any Tuesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The funds are now again stationary in price. The revenue returns did not produce any effect upon them, and business is moderately brisk.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
Ditto for Account	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
3 per cent. Reduced	—	—	—	—	—	—
New 3½ per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Annuities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	60pm	60pm	59pm	60pm	60pm	60pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	35½
Belgian	101½	Peruvian	32½
Brazilian	88	Portuguese 5 per cents	87½
Buenos Ayres	41	Ditto converted	66
Columbian	16	Russian	117
Danish	90	Spanish Active	29½
Dutch 2½ per cents	63	Ditto Passive	7
Ditto 4 per cents	97	Ditto Deferred	18

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	93	London & Birm. 4 Shares	32½
Birmingham & Gloucester	139	London and Brighton	65
Blackwall	84	London & Croydon Trunk	18
Bristol and Exeter	84	London and Greenwich	25
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	21½	Ditto New	11
Eastern Counties	64	Manchester and Leeds	150
Edinburgh and Glasgow	64	Midland Counties	157
Grand Junction	—	Ditto New Shares	20
Great North of England	195	Midland and Derby	118
Great Western	181½	Ditto New	—
Ditto Half	102	South Eastern and Dover	43
Ditto Fifths	41	South Western	81
London and Birmingham	237	Ditto New	14

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, April 7.

The wheat trade was very dull, and prices were barely supported, some quantity remaining unsold at the close of the day. Of foreign very little offering, either free or bonded, but quite adequate to the demand. No alteration in prices, but the transactions were very limited.

The barley trade appears to be drawing to a close, at least as respects malting corn, and we must quote a reduction of fully 1s. per quarter on such descriptions.

There has been a good sale for oats to consumers, at fully last week's prices, and a few parcels of fine heavy Irish have obtained rather more money.

Beans and peas in short supply, and fully as dear for all sorts.

Wheat, Red New	42 to 46	Malt, Ordinary	46 to 52
Fine	46 to 51	Pale	56 to 64
White	44 to 50	Rye	30 to 34
Fine	50 to 54	Peas, Hog	32 to 36
Flour, per sack	32 to 41	Maple	33 to 38
Barley	23 to 27	Boilers	32 to 36
Malting	32 to 35	Beans, Ticks	31 to 36

Beans, Pigeon	31 to 40	Wheat	20s. 0d.
Harrow	33 to 36	Barley	6 0
Oats, Feed	20 to 22	Oats	6 0
Fine	22 to 24	Rye	10 6
Poland	21 to 24	Beans	8 6
Potato	22 to 24	Peas	7 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR APRIL 4.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	45s. 10d.	Wheat	45s. 3d.
Barley	32 4	Barley	32 3
Oats	21 5	Oats	21 6
Rye	30 0	Rye	30 9
Beans	34 10	Beans	34 9
Peas	31 8	Peas	35 4

SEEDS.

There was a steady consumptive demand for cloverseed this morning, which was freely met by sellers, and prices had, on the whole, a downward tendency. Tares were in fair request, but were likewise the turn lower. Having a small supply of Canaryseed, factors endeavoured to establish an advance.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt.
English, sowing	52s. to 58s.	English, red	48s. to 64
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	60 to 68
Ditto, crushing	38 to 42	Flemish, pale	43 to 53
Medic. & Odessa	38 to 40	Ditto, fine	53 to 58
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb., red	42 to 53
Large	—	Ditto, fine	53 to 58
Canary, new	47 to 48	Old Hamb., red	—
Extra	50 to —	Ditto, fine	—
Caraway, old	44 to 46	French, red	45 to 60
New	48 to 50	Ditto, white	55 to 73
Ryegrass, English	—	Coriander	12 to 18
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed, 2½ to 26½ per last	—
Brown, new	8 to 12	English, new	23½ to 25½
White	12 to 14	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	17 to 24	English	11½ to 12½
Old	—	Foreign	7½ to 9½
Tares, new	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.	Rapeseed cakes	— to —

PROVISIONS, LONDON, April 7.

The demand for Irish butter continues limited, the trade taking only a few firkins to supply immediate wants; the quantity on hand is, however, so small that all must go before new, in any quantity, arrives. The bacon market continues firm, but the transactions passing last week were of a more limited character than they had been lately. Hams and lard meet a steady sale.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, April 7.

There are a few purchases of hops made for present wants; but prices remain about the same, in the absence of general activity.

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, April 7.

This market has been abundantly supplied during the past week. The trade continues to be unusually depressed. The best samples went off heavily at the annexed quotations:—

York Reds	50 to 80	Kent & Essex Whites ..	50 to 60
Perth do.	50 to 60	Wisbeach Kidneys ..	60 to 70
Early Devons do.	55 to 60	Do. Whites	50 to 55
Cornwall do.	50 to 60	Guernsey Blues	50 to 60
Jersey Blues	50 to 60	Prince Regents	60 to 65

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, April 7.

The beef trade was in a very sluggish state, at prices barely equal to those obtained on Monday last. At the close of the market a clearance was not effected. The imports of live stock from abroad have been somewhat on the increase, they having consisted of 51 oxen and 25 cows, or a total of 76 head, all from Holland, and in fair average condition. The mutton trade was firm, and the prime old Downs found ready buyers. The lamb trade was somewhat active, at fully last week's quotations. Calves, the supply of which was small, met a heavy inquiry, at late rates. In pigs we have very few sales to report, yet the quotations were mostly supported.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 4d. to 3s. 10d.	Veal	3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d.
Mutton	2 10 .. 4 6	Pork	3 0 .. 4 2
Lamb, 4s. 8d. to 6s. 0d.			

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday 720	6,640	173	318
Monday 2,937	26,230	78	318

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, April 7.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior Beef 2s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.	Inf. Mutton 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d.
Middling do 2 8 .. 3 10	Mid. ditto 2 10 .. 3 2
Prime large 2 10 .. 3 2	Prime ditto 3 4 .. 3 8
Prime small 2 2 .. 3 4	Veal 3 6 .. 4 8
Large lamb 2 8 .. 3 6	Small Pork 3 8 .. 4 2
Lamb, 4s. 8d. to 5s. 10d.	

COTTON.

In the early part of the week cotton was very freely offered, and in many instances a decline of ½d. per lb. was submitted to. On Thursday the demand was active, both from the trade and speculators, and a very extensive business done at full prices, with which the market closed firmly. In Egyptian a moderate amount of business has been done, without change in prices. Brazil is in fair demand, but heavy of sale. Surat is still neglected, though rather more saleable at former prices. The sales of the week amount to 50,450 bales, including 9,600 American, 200 Egyptian, and 300 Surat on speculation.

WOOL.

The market for wool is steady, but it appears that in the manufacturing districts there is some expectation of a decline in the staple, the same as has occurred in cotton. The imports last week were 2,909 bales, of which 1,057 were from Sydney, 594 from Spain, 74 from Buenos Ayres, 17 from Portugal, 30 from Italy, 276 from Africa, 345 from Turkey, 103 from the Cape, 248 from Odessa, and 165 from Bombay.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, April 5.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow .. 72s. to 90s.	New Clover Hay .. 90s. to 112s.
New ditto	Old ditto
Useful Old ditto .. 93 .. 104	Oat Straw
Fine Upland ditto 105 .. 110	Wheat Straw

COAL EXCHANGE, April 7.

Stewart's, 19s. 6d.; Hetton's, 19s. 0d.; Braddell's Hettons 20s. 0d. Ships arrived this week, 28.

GROCERIES.—TUESDAY, APRIL 8.

TEA.—A steady market, and a fair business doing. The deliveries last week were 477,000lbs. The stock, on the last instant, was 27,610,000lbs.

COFFEE.—1,200 bags Ceylon offered in auction were only sold in part at lower rates; fair ordinary fetched 45s. to 45s. 6d. per cwt.

SUGAR.—Barbadoes, good to fine yellow, fetched 52s. to 57s. 6d. 65 hhdls and 48 barrels St Lucia in auction sold at a decline of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. There was more doing in the refined market, standard lumps selling at 66s. and brown grocery at 65s. per cwt.

Advertisements.

SCHOOL INSPECTION AND TRAVELING AGENCY.

WANTED, by the **BRITISH and FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY**, a well-qualified PERSON, to be engaged as AGENT, chiefly in Lancashire and the adjoining districts. He must be a man of sincere piety and good address, and one who will not object to solicit personally for subscriptions. He should also be competent to speak at a public meeting, or to deliver a popular lecture on Education. As the representative of the society, he would of course be expected to sustain its principles and to advocate the plans embodied in the *Manual of Tuition*. In seeking to obtain funds, to excite an increased interest in education, and to promote the improvement of existing schools, the agent would have to mingle with Christians of all denominations; he must therefore be a man of agreeable manners and of a catholic spirit. As it is intended to employ a well-trained organising schoolmaster in connexion with the agency, it will not be necessary that the party should, in the first instance, be practically acquainted with the details of the British system. The committee would not object to negotiate with any gentleman who might be willing to devote a fixed portion of his time to the service. The remuneration would be liberal, and in proportion to the time occupied. Applications to be made, by letter, to the Secretary, at the Society's house, Borough road, before Thursday, the 24th of April.

DUMPTON HALL INSTITUTION.

OFFICERS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM CLARKE, Esq., The Park, Ramsgate.
Honorary Secretary—REV. MORTLOCK DANIELL.
Honorary Collector—HAROLD DANIELL, Esq.

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Edward Ball, Esq., Carlton Villas	Mr W. Stanger, Mission House
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I. G. Hatchard, Esq., Strand	John Ebers, Esq., Spencer square

THE Committee feel it very important that the first printed List of Subscriptions to the Educational Society at Dumpton Hall, should be well sustained; and therefore they hope to be excused in urging all friends who intend to contribute, to add their names to those already given at their earliest convenience. Also to remind, that rent and taxes, desks, forms, and all school-fittings, being free of charge, together with the services of secretary and collector, the whole of the subscriptions will be directly applied to the Education of the Sons and Orphans of Dissenting Ministers, without any sectarian preference or distinction. By this desideratum, the Institution will be conducted at nearly half what would otherwise have been the necessary expenditure.

Subscriptions from 10s. 6d. upwards, and Donations towards the furnishing of the dormitories, &c., will be thankfully received by any of the Officers and Committee. A Donation of Ten Guineas constitutes a Life Governor.

J. MORTLOCK DANIELL, Hon. Sec.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

THE NEXT LECTURE will be delivered at

the following place:—
MARYLEBONE.—On THURSDAY, APRIL 10th, at Blandford street chapel, Manchester square (Rev. W. B. Bowes's), by the Rev W. FORSTER, of Highgate. Subject:—The Legal Abolition of State Churches, the Religious Duty of Dissenters. To commence at Seven o'clock.

Members may be enrolled, and the Publications of the Association had, at the close of the Lectures, and at the Offices, 5, Aldine chambers, Paternoster row.

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DIVINES of the SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.—Forty volumes for 20s. to subscribers and booksellers; 25s. to non-subscribers. The forty volumes average five sheets each, or 200 sheets in the whole, in neat paper covers:—

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Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.
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The selection comprises standard writers on a wide range of subjects, including almost every topic on which a Christian, whether a minister or a layman, may wish to ascertain the opinions of men whose praise is in all the Churches. The Committee of the Religious Tract Society have much pleasure in thus presenting, in a concentrated form, and at a price within the reach of all who are able to purchase, an assortment of books so valuable and clear in their scriptural statements.

Depository, 56, Paternoster row, London; and sold by the booksellers.

REPORT OF THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DRAPERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE STUDENT and YOUNG MEN'S ADVOCATE for APRIL, price Fourpence, contains, in

addition to the usual matter, a verbatim Report of the above important Meeting, held on the 12th ult., at Exeter Hall, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, M.P., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel; the Rev. Dr. Alder; C. Bullar, Esq., M.P.; Joseph Payne, Esq.; Edwin Lankester, Esq., M.D., F.L.S.; and several influential employers.

"The Student and Young Men's Advocate" is a very cheap, meritorious work, published under the superintendence of the Metropolitan Drapers' Association for securing the adoption of the short-hour system in all trades. The articles are of a useful character, and carefully written."—*Morning Chronicle*.

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THE PROPOSED INCREASE of the GRANT to MAYNOOTH.

"Ille dies primus leti, primusque malorum Causa fuit."—*Virgil*.

By B. W. NORL, M.A., Minister of St John's chapel, Bedford row.

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KNIGHT'S WEEKLY VOLUME for all READERS.

Price ONE SHILLING.

The Publication of this Series commenced on Saturday, the 29th of June, 1844, and will be continued every succeeding Saturday. The following Works will appear in the course of April:—

April 5th.—The Lost Senses—Deafness. By J. Kitto, D.D.
" 12th.—Curiosities of Physical Geography. By W. Wittich.
" 19th.—The Dutch in the Medway.
" 26th.—The Dog. By W. Martin, F.L.S.

London: CHARLES KNIGHT and Co., 22, Ludgate street.

TRINITY CHAPEL, JOHN STREET, EDGEWARE ROAD. TO the FRIENDS of EVANGELICAL RELIGION.

DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS—"Preach the gospel to every creature," was the last command of our blessed Lord and Saviour. Yet there are many places in this highly favoured land—many districts in this vast metropolis—where thousands are still ignorant of that gospel which alone bringeth salvation. In the providence of God, a site has been procured for building a chapel in the overgrown parish of Marylebone, where the present church accommodation, of all denominations taken together, is very inadequate to the wants of the population. This site has been procured by the disinterested efforts of a friend, who has taken upon himself a heavy pecuniary responsibility, by purchasing the lease of a considerable property, in order to procure a suitable situation for a chapel.

It is proposed to build, on a lease of ninety-nine years, a plain and unadorned, but substantial, chapel, capable of containing 1,200 persons, with a school room underneath; the cost estimated not to exceed £4,000. In this chapel it is proposed that I should preach the gospel of salvation. The parish of Marylebone is the abode of a large portion of the most intelligent and respectable Jews in London; and in the present unsettled state of my brethren, in regard to their religion, a Christian place of worship, where the truth is preached by one of themselves, may well be considered a Jewish missionary station.

In these days, when Pilate's question—"What is truth?"—is asked on all sides, it is useful to state explicitly what is to be preached in this chapel. It is this:—That the One only living and true God (subsisting in the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, called, in theological language, the Trinity) has made a revelation of his will to man in the Holy Scriptures, which are the sole authoritative rule of faith and practice; that in this revelation we learn the fall of man, and consequent corruption of his nature; the wonderful scheme of man's redemption, accomplished by the incarnation, death, and resurrection of the eternal Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith in whom the sinner is justified; and the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and renews the heart. Thus the doctrines to be taught in this chapel are—the corruption of human nature, justification by faith, and sanctification through the Holy Spirit. These doctrines are to be distinctly set forth in the Trust Deed, and the property to be vested in Trustees, who shall hold the same in trust for the preaching of the doctrines above stated; the Minister being appointed on every vacancy by the church, or communicants, subject only to the above conditions.

The following gentlemen have been nominated Trustees, with power to add to their number:—

Sir CULLING E. SMITH, Bart.
JOHN D. PAUL, Esq.
DR. CONQUEST.
FRED. WOLLASTON, Esq.

Having stated these particulars, I appeal with confidence to all the friends of the Lord Jesus Christ to help in a matter which concerns the glory of God and the good of immortal souls, an undertaking in which we cannot doubt that the Head of the Church sympathizes. This appeal being made, I leave it in the hands of Him, whose are all the silver and the gold, and in whose power are the hearts of all men.

RIDLEY H. HERSHELL.

60, Gibson square, Islington, Feb., 1845.

Subscriptions already received,			
Sir Culling E. Smith, Bart.	£ s. d.	Joseph Wilson, Esq.	10 0 0
John D. Paul, Esq.	100 0 0	Mrs Spurling	5 0 0
John Rudall, Esq.	100 0 0	Rev. Dr Keith	5 5 0
A Friend	100 0 0	T. Piper, Esq.	10 0 0
Mrs Fuller Maitland	50 0 0	W. Harvey, Esq.	10 0 0
Miss Fuller Maitland	25 0 0	Mr P. Brown	10 0 0
Miss B. Fuller Maitland	25 0 0	C. W. Macbryde, Esq.	5 0 0
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Wm Flanders, Esq.	10 0 0	A Friend in Exeter	10 0 0
A Friend	10 0 0	C. J. Metcalfe, Esq.	5 0 0
Dr Conquest	10 10 0	J. R. Mills, Esq.	5 0 0
Mr Unwin	10 0 0	Rev. J. Clayton	5 0 0
George Paul, Esq.	5 0 0	Jos. Morrison, Esq.	5 5 0
		Right Hon. Lady Olivia B. Sparrow	10 0 0

TESTIMONIALS.

As the Rev. Ridley H. Hershell has been my nearest ministerial neighbour and my personal friend for six years, so I have sincere pleasure in expressing my entire confidence in his personal character and public proceedings, and my earnest hope that he may be generously sustained by the Christian public in his present effort to erect a new Chapel in a much neglected part of the Metropolis, and there to establish the public proclamation of the Gospel and the simple worship of the New Testament in a neighbourhood occupied by many respectable Jewish families, who may be interested in his ministry as that of a Christian of their own stock and nation.

(Signed) JOHN BLACKBURN.

Claremont chapel, Pentonville.
The undersigned is happy to bear testimony to Mr Hershell's work, and to express his solicitude for the accomplishment of this desirable object which he has in view.

(Signed) JAMES BENNETT, D.D.

Falcon Square chapel.
We cordially concur in the above expressions of regard and sympathy towards Mr Hershell; and strongly desire that the very important object he has in view may be adequately encouraged by the Christian public, and be successfully accomplished.

(Signed) HENRY TOWNLEY, Bishopsgate chapel.
JOHN ARUNDEL.
JOHN CLAYTON,
F. A. COX,
T. BINNEY,
CALEB MORRIS.

Subscriptions received by Messrs Strahan, Paul, Paul, and Bates, 217, Strand; by Mr Unwin, 31, Bucklersbury; and at the office of the Patriot.

PARLIAMENTARY GRANT TO MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.

AT A SPECIAL MEETING of the GENERAL BODY of PROTESTANT DISSENTING MINISTERS of the THREE DENOMINATIONS, residing in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, holden at the Congregational Library, Blomfield street, on Tuesday, April 1st, 1845. The Rev. F. A. COX, LL.D., D.D., in the chair.

It was resolved—
I. That this body has heard with the deepest anxiety and alarm of the proposal of her Majesty's government greatly to augment the Parliamentary Grant to the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, in Ireland, and of the intended introduction to the legislature of a bill to remove that grant from the annual votes of the House of Commons, and so to make the endowment permanent; which, if allowed to become law, will, in the opinion of this body, virtually establish Popery in that country by act of parliament.

II. That in the judgment of this body, it is in principle unjust, and in its tendency most mischievous, to appropriate the resources of the state to the endowment of any religious institution whatsoever; and that it is neither unjust nor uncharitable toward the Roman Catholics of Ireland, to demand that the education of their priesthood be left to the same voluntary support, by which the seminaries and colleges of the nonconformist ministers of England and Wales have been founded, and are sustained.

III. That in addition to the general principle on which this body rests its opposition to the endowment of religious institutions by the state, there are special reasons which greatly increase its hostility to the measure now proposed to parliament, and which are deemed worthy of the earnest consideration of all true protestants.

1st. Because the doctrines taught at Maynooth college are those of the most rigid school of the Papacy, and which are inculcated by the most accomplished arts of Jesuitism—doctrines which the Protestant nonconformists of Great Britain and Ireland regard as subversive of the Gospel of Christ, and mischievous alike to the minds, the morals, and the liberties of mankind.

2ndly. Because all history and experience prove that the varied learning and high accomplishments of the Roman Catholic clergy throughout the world, have not been acquired for the enlightenment of the people, but have too commonly been employed to increase their intellectual bondage, and their abject submission to priestly usurpation; and, therefore, although the system of education for the Irish priests at Maynooth were greatly improved at the national expense, it will not consequently follow, that the popular mind of Ireland will be advanced thereby, either in knowledge, virtue, or charity.

3rdly. Because accumulated national sufferings can alone explain the long-continued national agitation of Ireland; and it is neither righteous nor manly to attempt to silence the loud complaints of an oppressed and impoverished people, by inducing their priests to employ spiritual power to repress their desires for political rights and social improvement—to satisfy which seems to be the first duty of enlightened and honest legislation.

4thly. Because the Protestant Churches of Europe and America, and their devoted missionaries throughout the world, have, within the last quarter of a century, suffered much from the exclusive claims, the restless intrigues, and the unscrupulous aggressions of the emissaries of Rome (the bitter fruits of restoring the order of the Jesuits in 1815), whilst, in the Established Church of these realms, there has arisen a party formidable by their numbers and their talents, who profess warm sympathy with, and profound deference to, the Church of Rome—considerations these, which should not permit any advantages to be conceded to Roman Catholics, beyond those which national justice and equal citizenship demand.

IV. That as the nonconformist founders of this body were amongst the first to welcome the arrival of the Prince of Orange in this ancient capital "for the security and maintenance of the protestant religion;" and as they employed their best influence to secure the happy revolution of 1688, and as their immediate successors in the dissenting ministry strenuously exerted their best powers to maintain the title of the House of Hanover to the throne of these realms, against the successive rebellions of the Roman Catholic adherents of the exiled princes of the Stuart family, so the present crisis demands of this body the faithful employment of the best influence it possesses to avert the calamity now impending; and therefore it resolves to present petitions to both Houses of Parliament, founded on the first and second of these resolutions, and to urge upon all the representatives of the metropolitan cities and boroughs, and their adjacent counties, not to lend their support to the unprincipled measure about to be introduced to the House of Commons.

(Signed) F. A. COX, Chairman.
THOMAS JAMES, Secretary.

MAYNOOTH GRANT.

AT A MEETING of the PROTESTANT DISSENTERS of ISLINGTON, to consider the measure now before Parliament for endowing the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, held at Islington Chapel, on Monday, the 7th instant,

ROGER CUNLIFFE, Esq., in the Chair.
The following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—
Moved by the Rev. JOHN BLACKBURN; seconded by the Rev. DR BENNETT:—

I. That this meeting, though steadfastly attached to the principles of protestantism, does not think it right that any advantage which the government can properly bestow should be withheld from their Roman Catholic fellow-citizens on account of their religious opinions, but that it objects to the support of religion by the state under every form, as unchristian, unjust, and injurious.

Moved by the Rev. C. GILBERT; seconded by the Rev. J. H. GODWIN:—

II. That compensation for the wrongs which the Roman Catholics of Ireland have experienced, ought not to be given by a measure which is unjust to others, offensive to all who are thereby compelled to sustain a system which they condemn, and neither honourable nor beneficial to those to whom it is offered.

Moved by DR THOMAS PRICE, seconded by the Rev. B. S. HOLLIS:—

III. That the proposed measure for increasing and perpetuating the endowment of the college of Maynooth appears to be an attempt to confirm the existing establishments of religion by the addition of another; and that the support of adverse systems renders it evident that the promotion of truth is not so much the object of state patronage as the subjection of ministers of religion to the control or influence of the government—a system opposed alike to the character of Christianity, and to the liberty of all classes of the community.

Moved by the Rev. H. ALLEN, and seconded by the Rev. A. J. MORRIS.

IV. That a petition, founded on these resolutions, signed by the Chairman on behalf of the meeting, be presented to both Houses of Parliament, and that the members for the borough be earnestly requested to give it their support.

Moved by the Rev. J. J. BROWN, and seconded by the Rev. J. YOCKNEY:—

V. That the following gentlemen, consisting of two from each dissenting congregation in this district, form a standing committee to watch over the progress of the bill now before parliament, and that the expenses of these proceedings be defrayed by equal contributions from their several congregations:—
Revs J. Yockney, H. Allen, B. S. Hollis, C. Gilbert, J. Blackburn, J. J. Brown, A. J. Morris, J. H. Godwin, Dr Thomas Price, Messrs Cheep, Levers, Good, Barnett, Bollen, and Brookes.

MAYNOOTH.

A COMMITTEE for the Boroughs of SOUTHWARK and LAMBETH, for conducting, on dissenting principles, an opposition to the Roman Catholic Endowment Bill, meets at Lion Street School Room, New Kent Road, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Mornings, at 7 o'clock. The attendance of all parties favourable to the movement is solicited.

JOHN BROWN, Chairman.
SAMUEL GREEN, } Secretaries.
DANIEL PRATT, }

Lion Street School Room, April 9, 1845.

MAYNOOTH ENDOWMENT BILL.

A PUBLIC MEETING, in opposition to the above measure, of the Dissenters of Southwark and Lambeth, will be held at the Borough Road Chapel, Southwark, on Thursday (to-morrow) Evening. The chair to be taken at 7 o'clock, by D. W. Wire, Esq.

ENDOWMENT OF ROMANISM.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Members and Friends of the British Anti-state-church Association, will be held at the MERMAID, HACKNEY, on Friday next, April 11th, 1845, to petition the Legislature against the proposed Endowment of Maynooth.

D'ARCY IRVINE, Esq., will take the Chair, at Seven o'clock.

ENDOWMENT OF ROMANISM.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the MEMBERS and FRIENDS of the BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION will be held at the TABERNACLE, MOORFIELDS, on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, April 14th, 1845, to petition the Legislature against the proposed Endowment of Maynooth.

The Chair will be taken at Half-past Six o'clock precisely.

CENTRAL ANTI-MAYNOOTH COMMITTEE.—Finance Sub-Committee, London Coffee-house, Ludgate hill, April 7, 1845.—Protestants of England, we are fighting your battles for you, but you must help us with funds.

The circumstances of peril in which the country is placed in consequence of the hasty manner in which Sir R. Peel has expressed his determination of pressing through parliament his bill for the endowment of popery, imperatively call for a combined and promptly vigorous effort on the part of all who have at heart the honour of God, the truth as it is in Jesus, and the safety of the throne and the constitution.

The expenses of such a movement as ours must necessarily be great; we trust, therefore, that you will cheerfully and promptly respond to this appeal to your protestant principles, and strengthen our hands in this most important work, by freely contributing to the funds of the Central Anti-Maynooth Committee, at Messrs Strachan, Paul, and Co's, 117, Strand; and at the Committee room, as above.

The following contributions are gratefully acknowledged:—

J. P. Plumptre, Esq.,	£10 0 0	J. A. Knipe, Esq.,	£1 0 0
M. P.,	10 0 0	Rev. R. J. F. Thomas	1 0 0
Sir C. E. Smith, Bart	10 0 0	J. D. Paul, Esq.,	10 0 0
G. Finch, Esq.,	10 0 0	A. Gordon, Esq.,	10 0 0
Rev. S. G. Garrard	1 0 0	G. R. Clarke, Esq.,	5 5 0
Hon. and Rev. Baptist		R. B. Seeley, Esq.,	2 2 0
Noel	1 0 0	N. Baxter, Esq.,	5 5 0
J. Braithwaite, Esq.,	5 0 0	W. W. Hull, Esq.,	5 0 0
Mr Chant	1 0 0	Rev. H. Robbins	1 0 0
A. Hamilton, Esq.,	5 0 0	T. Farmer, Esq.,	10 0 0
R. France, Esq.,	5 5 0	Mr Goad	1 0 0
J. Bridges, Esq.,	5 0 0	Rev. J. Pratt	0 10 0
J. D. H. Hill, Esq.,	2 0 0	Rev. J. T. Robinson	1 0 0
Rev. J. E. Cox	1 0 0		

CULLING EARDLEY SMITH, Chairman.
JOHN DEAN PAUL, Treasurer.
JAMES LORD, Secretary.

PRAYER.

CENTRAL ANTI-MAYNOOTH COMMITTEE, London Coffee House, Ludgate hill, April 7, 1845.

The Committee are most anxious that all the friends of protestantism, in addition to using every constitutional means, by petitions to parliament, and by communicating with their representatives, should, in a crisis so important, be most earnest in prayer to Almighty God, that the deliberations of our senators may be influenced to prevent so great a national sin as the proposed formal endowment, nay establishment, of popery by the incorporation and support of the college of Maynooth.

The Committee very respectfully suggest, that in all the services of the next Lord's day such special prayer should be offered; and doubt not but the propriety and necessity of this proceeding will commend itself to the ministers of religion, and to all lovers of the truth. And if, in addition to this, any united meetings for such special prayer, on another and earlier day, could be held, it would be still more desirable.

For the Committee,
CULLING EARDLEY SMITH, Chairman.
JAMES LORD, Secretary.

CENTRAL ANTI-MAYNOOTH COMMITTEE.—The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SIT DAILY, from nine to five, at the London coffee-house, Ludgate-hill. Contributions to defray the expenses of this movement will be received by John D. Paul, Esq., Treasurer, at Sir John Paul and Co's, Strand.

CENTRAL ANTI-MAYNOOTH COMMITTEE.—This Committee, having made themselves acquainted with the proceedings of the House of Commons on Thursday evening, lose not an instant in calling on their fellow-Protestants throughout the three kingdoms for renewed, earnest, and united exertion. On the mere introduction of the bill, and before the voice of the country could possibly be heard on the great question, they could not have expected so strong a division in their favour, they accept it as an auspicious indication from Divine Providence at the moment when encouragement was chiefly needed; and they now urge the most determined resistance in every constitutional way, not only, as before, from a deep sense of duty, but with the animating conviction that they will succeed if they labour in union for success.

From the tenor of the debates on Thursday evening, and especially from the speech of Lord John Russell, it is evident that leading statesmen contemplate endowing the whole Romish priesthood of Ireland, should the present measure be successful. The committee, therefore, earnestly entreat their friends, by congregational, parochial, and municipal meetings, by petitions to Parliament, by correspondence with their respective representatives, by the free and intelligent use of the press, and by every other means of enlightening and influencing the public mind, to assist in calling forth and securing the most decided opposition to this unjust, unprincipled, and dangerous measure.

On behalf of the Committee,
CULLING EARDLEY SMITH, Chairman.
JAMES LORD, Secretary.

THE ENGLISH INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, SWANSEA.—This case is strongly recommended by the Congregational Board of Ministers in London. Its high claims are so well known throughout the kingdom as to preclude the necessity of specific statements. The Rev. W. JONES, the minister of the chapel, is now in town, seeking Aid for this English Church in Wales, and will feel very thankful to the religious public for such sympathy as the peculiar importance of his case demands. The sum of £800 has been recently paid off. The remaining debt is £1,200.

Rev. Caleb Morris	10 0 0	Mr Thomas Edwards	2 2 0
By Do.—Sir Culling		Rev. J. Blackburn	1 0 0
Eardley Smith, Bart	5 0 0	Rev. T. Lewis	1 0 0
Joshua Wilson, Esq.	10 0 0	Mr C. Kennedy	1 0 0
Mrs Thomas Wilson	10 0 0	Mr G. Clarke	1 0 0
Rev. John Medway	2 0 0	Mr W. Edgar	1 0 0
Daniel Edwards, Esq.	5 0 0	Mr E. Selby	1 0 0
Rev. Henry Richard	5 0 0	Mr T. Cross	1 0 0
Rev. J. Davies	5 0 0	Rev. J. Yockney	1 0 0
C. Vines, Esq.	2 0 0	Joseph Curling, Esq.	1 0 0
E. W. S.	2 2 0	J. E. Spicer, Esq.	1 0 0
Mr Edward Swaine	2 0 0	W. Flinders, Esq.	1 0 0

Donations will be thankfully received by the Rev. CALER MORRIS, 22, Claremont square; Offices of the *Patriot* and *Non-conformist*; and Rev. W. JONES, 3, Winkworth place, City road.

CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONS IN IRELAND.

ON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 10, the Rev. NOBLE SHEPHERD, of Sligo, Ireland, will deliver a LECTURE on the present religious condition of Ireland, at BISHOPSGATE STREET CHAPEL (Rev. H. Townley's). Service to commence at Seven o'clock.

A collection will be made.
On NEXT SABBATH DAY, Mr SHEPHERD will preach at Brickfields Meeting, Stratford (Rev. N. Fergus's), in the morning, at half-past Eleven o'clock, when he will advocate the claims of the Congregational Union of Ireland, and a Collection will be made.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE for SILVER.

The material RIPPON and BURTON offer to the Public has, for the last ten years, been found equal to Silver, in appearance and sweetness, and superior to it in durability. Of the prices of Tea Sets, Waiters, Candlesticks, and all articles hitherto made in Silver, a detailed Catalogue, with Engravings, will be sent (gratis), post free.

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Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen	12s. 0d.	28s. 0d.	30s. 0d.
Dessert, ditto, ditto, ditto	10s. 0d.	21s. 0d.	25s. 0d.
Tea, ditto, ditto, ditto	5s. 0d.	11s. 0d.	12s. 0d.
Gravy, ditto	3s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	7s. 0d.

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The LARGEST ASSORTMENT of STOVES and FENDERS, as well as GENERAL IRONMONGERY, in the WORLD, is now on SALE at RIPPON and BURTON'S extensive Warehouses, 39, Oxford street, corner of Newman street (just removed from Wells street). Bright steel fenders, to four feet, from 30s each; ditto, ditto, with ormolu ornaments, from 60s; rich bronzed scroll ditto, with steel bar, 10s. 6d.; iron fenders, three feet, 4s. 6d.; four feet, 6s.; ditto bronzed, and fitted with standards, three feet, 9s.; four feet, 11s.; wrought iron kitchen fenders, three feet, 4s. 6d.; four feet, 5s.; bright register stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, from 5 guineas; ditto, ditto, with ormolu ornaments, from £9 10s.; black dining-room register stoves, two feet, 20s.; three feet, 30s.; bed-room register stoves, two feet, 16s.; three feet, 21s. The new economical Thermo stove, with fender and radiating hearthplate, from £8 5s.; fire irons for chambers, 1s. 9d. per set; handsome ditto, with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest pattern, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. A variety of fire irons, with ormolu and richly cut heads, at proportionate prices. Any article in furnishing ironmongery thirty per cent. under any other house, while the extent and variety of the stock is without any equal. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. Established (in Wells street) 1820.

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BRUSH, and SMYRNA SPONGES.—The Tooth Brush has the important advantage of searching thoroughly into the divisions of the teeth, and cleaning them in the most effectual and extraordinary manner, and is famous for the hairs not coming loose, &c. An improved Clothes Brush, that cleans in a third part of the usual time, and incapable of injuring the finest nap. Penetrating Hair Brushes, with the durable unbleached Russian Bristles, which do not soften like common hair. Flesh Brushes of improved graduated and powerful friction. Velvet Brushes, which act in the most surprising and successful manner. The genuine Smyrna Sponge, with its preserved valuable properties of absorption, vitality, and durability, by means of direct importations, dispensing with all intermediate parties' profits and destructive bleaching, and securing the luxury of a genuine Smyrna Sponge. Only at METCALFE'S sole Establishment, 130 B, Oxford street, one door from Holles street. Caution—Beware of the words, "From Metcalfe's," adopted by some houses.

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FEET.—Wellington street, Strand, London.—HALL and Co., SOLE PATENTEES of the PANNUS CORIUM, or Leather Cloth Boots and Shoes for Ladies and Gentlemen.—These articles have borne the test and received the approbation of all who have worn them. Such as are troubled with Corns, Bunions, Gout, Chilblains, or tenderness of Feet from any other cause, will find them the softest and most comfortable ever invented—they never draw the feet or get hard, are very durable, and adapted for every climate; they resemble the finest leather, and are cleaned with common blacking.

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N.B.—Hall and Co. particularly invite attention to their Elastic Boots, which are much approved; they supersede lacing or buttoning: are drawn on in an instant, and are a great support to the ankle.

PATENT BELMONT SPERM CANDLES,

ONE SHILLING per lb. — PATENT BELMONT SPERM OIL, FOUR SHILLINGS per Gallon—burning more brilliantly than the ordinary Sperm Candles and Oil, and differing from them in being principally prepared from a pure vegetable material, instead of an impure animal one.

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Families wishing to try any of the above are recommended to order them through their own tradesmen, taking notice, however, that these being the London Cash Prices, the Country Dealer must charge higher to cover his expenses of carriages. Where no dealer can be found willing to sell them, EDWARD PRICE and Co. will supply quantities of not less than £5 worth, direct from their manufactory, at Belmont, Vauxhall. On receiving a Post Office Order for this amount, they will forward Candles and Oil in the proportions that may be directed; or, to parties wishing for samples and unable to obtain them, they will, on receiving a £1 Post Office Order, forward a box containing 3lbs of each of the four sorts of Candles, and a gallon of the Oil. They fix the price of the sample box so high, to avoid all suspicion of their wishing to interfere with the retail trade of the Country Dealers.

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